Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers Begin 3d Closed Meeting

NC2611175691 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers began their third closed meeting this evening under the chairmanship of Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

At the end of their second meeting earlier today, the GCC foreign ministers stressed that the Iraqi regime must comply totally with UN Security Council resolutions, particularly in connection with the release of Kuwaiti POW's and detainees.

Islamic Affairs

Bush, ICO Exchange Messages on Peace Process

LD2611225291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1613 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 26 Nov (SPA)—U.S. President George Bush has welcomed the support of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] for the peace efforts. He said that this support is important and necessary for the achievement of the joint aim, which is peace built on the UN Security Council resolutions No. 242 and 338.

In a reply message received by the ICO secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, President Bush emphasized the need for true, comprehensive, just, and permanent peace in the Middle East, and not a temporary stoppage of the state of war in the region.

He said that all our efforts should continue to give the peace process momentum, and to convince all sides that this process would provide the opportunity for the establishment of security and peace for all the countries of the region and their peoples. He pointed out that the peace process will not be easy or quick, and emphasized the need to continue this momentum by all sides in the search for peace. President Bush expressed his hopes that the ICO would use its influence to serve the interests of peace.

In a message he sent to President George Bush and President Mikhail Gorbachev, Dr. Hamid al-Gabid expressed the support of the ICO for the peace efforts in the Middle East, and the ICO's confidence that these efforts would continue for the sake of finding a complete, permanent, and just solution to the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Dr. al-Gabid emphasized that peace will not be achieved except by stopping the construction of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories, an Israeli withdrawal from these territories, and by enabling the Palestinian people to practice their legitimate rights, including the right to return and to self-determination according to international legitimacy.

Palestinian Affairs

Frayj—Israeli Delay on Talks Could Harm Peace

TA2711120391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Report by correspondent in the territories Moti Amir]

[Text] The Inner Cabinet resolution was met with incredulity in the territories. Palestinian activists were very careful not to comment on the decision before they were told what exactly the Inner Cabinet decided this morning. Some Palestinian leaders simply refused to believe the report and commented on it by mumbling feebly: It is inconceivable that Israel should turn down a U.S. offer.

Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor and member of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, wished to know why Israel wanted to defer the date for the talks until 9 December, emphasizing that he believes this could harm the peace process as every delegation can now set the date convenient for it.

[Begin Frayj recording, in English] If everybody wants to set a date, then the Syrians now will say: We want the 12th and not the 9th, the others might say this and that, so I think if everybody is serious about the peace process these differences are immaterial. What is important is to talk about peace, is to negotiate, and we the Palestinians, the Jordanians are willing to negotiate with the Israelis tomorrow, and not even on December 4th. [end recording]

[Amir translates the above into Hebrew]

Spokesman Says U.S. To Accommodate PLO Members

JN2711095391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Nov 91 pp 1, 25

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman said he believes the U.S. Administration might take a surprising step and provide the same facilities accorded to other delegations, such as security arrangements, protection, and communication, to the Palestinian delegation, just as the Spanish Government did in Madrid. He pointed out that this does not violate U.S. Congress decisions on relations with the PLO, adding that the bilateral talks in Washington are a form of continuity of an international conference that was indeed held, with arrangements and facilities deemed acceptable to everyone.

The PLO official spokesman added: We are not proposing something new to America; we want to see the same measures continue as long as they are within the same context. He noted the success achieved in the Spanish capital, expressing hope and expecting that U.S.

Secretary Baker would provide facilities to the members of Palestinian delegation from inside and outside [the occupied territories].

In the same context, Arab diplomatic sources here note that PLO expectations are not far from expectations of other parties close to the U.S. State Department, which also believe that Secretary Baker will lift the current restrictions imposed on PLO members.

Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahmad said the high hopes the PLO pins on a more understanding U.S. position are based on the fact that the spirit of the Madrid conference mandates more openness and understanding on the part of the United States toward the PLO position, given that recent PLO steps have been characterized by political flexibility and realism. This has contributed to the success of U.S.-Soviet efforts thus far.

One of the issues which are still ambiguous is the agenda of Washington, according to what is contained in the invitations addressed to the parties concerned.

The negotiating team will carry with it working papers that cover all issues. The first paper will be on settlement activity under a clear heading: Either peace or settlement activity, because negotiations to achieve peace cannot continue while Israel is destroying peace by daily building new settlements.

'Abd-al-Rahman asserted that Israel must accept what was agreed on in Sinai in 1979 regarding the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, and that halting settlement activity is a Palestinian precondition to make the peace process succeed and that this is a non-negotiable principle.

The PLO official spokesman added that other papers that the Palestinian delegation will carry with it are:

1. Land for peace through the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. Legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

3. Security arrangements for the states of the region, including the Palestinian state.

4. Jerusalem, which is an indivisible part of Palestinian territory.

5. The transitional phase, which the PLO emphasizes should not extend to more than one year during which the occupying Israeli authority will be dismantled and replaced by a transitional Palestinian government.

6. Ensuring international protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with the Geneva Conventions through international forces or forces affiliated with the two cosponsors of the peace conference.

Talks Sponsors Urged To Crack Down on Settlements

TA2611163191 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Nov 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Response and the Required Answers!"]

[Text] The Palestinian response to Secretary of State James Baker's proposal on resuming the bilateral talks in Washington on 4 December very clearly affirmed that the Palestinian side does not object in principle to the date and venue of the talks. Nevertheless, the response that was officially delivered to the U.S. and Soviet consuls yesterday contained some points and substantive questions that require immediate answers from the two cosponsors.

The Palestinian response explained that since the conclusion of the Madrid conference inaugural meetings, the Israeli Government has been establishing new settlements in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, and that it is confiscating land and pursuing other measures that do not contribute to a suitable climate for continuing the peace process.

Settlement activity and confiscation of land fundamentally contradict the most elementary basis for continuing the peace process. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir keeps repeating his government's resolve to continue building settlements, as well as his rejection of "the land for peace" principle. On his return from Washington, Shamir said: Israel has the right to continue building settlements because it considers the occupied territories to be its own property.

There is, therefore, an urgent need for the cosponsors to take a firm stance toward Israel's deeds on the ground. Ultimately, the question will be either to continue settlement activity or to continue the peace process. The two cannot move along simultaneously.

The Palestinian response very clearly mentioned the need to treat the Palestinian negotiating team as a single unit and to grant it the same status and privileges, on equal footing, as the other participating parties. The team cannot be divided into negotiators, advisers, and the like, and be treated separately. The Palestinian team is a single indivisible unit.

As for entry visas to the United States, the Palestinian side has the right to demand entry visas for any Palestinian from inside or outside the occupied territories in accordance with the requirements of the Palestinian team. Saying that U.S. laws forbid granting entry visas to some Palestinians has no logical basis at all. The Palestinian delegation is not applying for tourist or immigration visas. The U.S. Administration should consider that fact when dealing with the Palestinian team.

One other issue must be addressed: the status of the Palestinian team within the occupied territories, and

when it leaves and returns over the bridge to Jordan. The cosponsors should guarantee a special status for the Palestinian team.

In any event, the Palestinian side is still waiting for answers. We hope that the cosponsors will respond favorably to the logical and just demands contained in the Palestinian response to the U.S. secretary of state's proposals.

PLO's 'Amr Visits Syria for 2d Time in 48 Hours

JN2711090191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Nov 91 p 16

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Amr left Amman for Damascus yesterday on his second visit to the Syrian capital in 48 hours. Earlier, 'Amr held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' which were described as positive. The visit comes within the framework of the Syrian-Palestinian coordination on the eve of the second stage of the Middle East peace conference to be held in Washington on 4 December.

Well informed Palestinian sources described 'Amr's second visit to Damascus and the current visit to the Syrian capital by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as very important Palestinian-Syrian meetings to coordinate Arab positions prior to the second stage of the peace talks. The meetings deal with Syrian participation in the third stage of the peace talks to be held in Moscow.

The Palestinian sources said that 'Amr's and 'Abd-al-Shafi's visits aim at holding expanded or limited Arab meetings at summit level or at high levels to lay down a formula for Arab action in the bilateral and multilateral talks with Israel, even if this formula is at the minimum level.

'Rampage' During Delegates' Meeting in Bayt Jala

TA2611202991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] A mass riot occurred today in Bayt Jala, where two members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation addressed a meeting. The two were Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib and Dr. Nabil Qassis. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that hundreds of youths, supporters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as well as some Fatah supporters, went on a rampage in the hall, engaging in fist fights and using chairs and metal bars against each other. Two men were injured.

Vulgar derogatory terms were directed at the two delegates, and placards were put up, some of them saying that participation in the peace process is tantamount to treason. The audience demanded that the two speakers swear they would not make halfway peace with Israel.

Algeria

Prime Minister Discusses Upcoming Elections

PM2611154691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 25 Nov 91 p 4

[Interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by Georges Suffert in Algiers on 23 November]

[Excerpt] Algiers—[Suffert] There are rumors in Algiers that the elections will not take place, that they will be indefinitely postponed at the last minute.

[Ghozali] They will take place on the scheduled date. But I understand the rumors which you mention. The people are worried. They want the elections and they fear them. They feel that this election will not be like previous ones. In the past, people voted in the context of the single party. This time they will really choose. And new freedom sometimes makes you feel dizzy. Some people say that these elections are premature. I think that they are wrong. All Algerian governments have suffered from a lack of legitimacy. This time we must sort it out.

[Suffert] Are you afraid of the fundamentalists?

[Ghozali] Do not be too quick to talk of fundamentalism. Nobody really knows what the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is. There are 1.5 million unemployed people in Algeria; there were those who were disappointed in the National Liberation Front [FLN] and a large number of discontented people. Do you think that all these men are fundamentalists? The Algerians have seen the FIS leaders running the municipalities. That was not a success, as everybody noticed.

[Suffert] I will not ask you whether the FLN is united, because you will say "yes...."

[Ghozali] You are mistaken. My answer is no. But you must know what you are talking about. I will tell you what worries me about the FLN. Its leaders have kept the rules it had under the one-party system. The Central Committee is not really elected, it is appointed. People constantly say what they think the voters want to hear, and I think we must tell the truth even if it displeases people at the moment. Do not forget that the people here no longer have confidence. They have been told too many lies. We must build a democracy with a totally disillusioned population.

[Suffert] People say that there will be a government of national unity after the elections.

[Ghozali] I do not know. Moreover, I distrust the myth of national unity. We must move away from a superficial show of unanimity. Once again, our country is not yet a democracy. We are moving toward it. At the same time, I am convinced that there is a basis common to all Algerians—a limited but decisive consensus. For the time being, we must prepare the citizens for an entirely new idea: alternation.

[Suffert] What is your forecast?

[Ghozali] It is impossible to give a forecast. I repeat, these are the first free parliamentary elections. I say once again to the Algerians: take care! This time it is not a ritual or a formality. You are going to decide what your life will be like.

[Suffert] You are a strange prime minister. You were appointed merely to organize the elections. You have undertaken fundamental reforms, however: new legislation on oil, the reshaping of the fiscal system, and so forth. And critics immediately said that you have no intention of departing after the election.

[Ghozali] What is the point of "sweeping things under the carpet"? The prophet said: "Work as if you had eternity before you." That is a rule which I have always followed in my public life and in my private life. Some people criticize me for these new laws. "You have mortgaged the future," they tell me. That is a joke. If I had done nothing for six months I would really have worked against Algeria's interests.

[Suffert] Your bill on oil—allowing foreigners to exploit known Algerian oil fields—created a minor scandal.

[Ghozali] I know. But the real situation is this: We do not even have enough currency to pay for the medicines that we need. We need money, and productive money. That is what the new law will give us.

[Suffert] Will the law be passed?

[Ghozali] Yes, in the next two weeks. But I can tell you that 22 foreign companies have already established contacts with us.

[Suffert] Why start a fiscal reform two months before elections?

[Ghozali] I merely want to simplify and modernize the system. There are now more than 20 different taxes. I am proposing to reduce them to value-added tax and income tax.

[Suffert] Do you want to remain prime minister?

[Ghozali] Why ask me such a question? You will not believe my answer. Personally, I do not want to stay in this post.

[Suffert] What do you think of the tension between the United States, Britain, France, and Libya?

[Ghozali] Libya is not always nice. Not even with us. That leaves the investigations and accusations from various legal authorities, the U.S. and British legal authorities on the one hand, and the French legal authorities on the other. I am fundamentally opposed to terrorism outside the battle zone during a war. But there must be measures other than reprisals. The Libyan people are not really responsible for what certain individuals may have done.

[Suffert] Thanks to Chinese aid, Algeria is apparently building a new nuclear reactor. Is that true?

[Ghozali] Of course; that is publicly known. We are members of the Vienna agency—the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is up to it to say if we are dreaming of using nuclear power for military purposes. Bombs do not interest us. After all, we have experienced them. Remember the Sahara.

[Suffert] What do you think of Jean-Marie Le Pen's immigration proposals?

[Ghozali] Let us make things clear: Algeria does not want its inhabitants to emigrate. That is a disastrous policy for a country. We are therefore not interested in any discussion on "quotas."

On the other hand, the living conditions of Algerians in France are extremely important to us. Nobody must undermine Algeria's dignity, and every Algerian is Algeria.

I understand that the subject of immigration is attractive to some political parties, but that is not our problem. [passage omitted]

Investment Balance of Payments Increases

LD2611213591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The overall balance of payments allocated to national investments stood at the end of this year at 133.6 billion Algerian dinars, compared with 95.1 billion in 1990. This represents an increase of 40.5 percent on the basis of the national [development] plan for 1992. This level corresponds to a 98- percent implementation of the investment program set for 1991, but in real terms the investments dropped by about 12 percent. [sentence as heard]

Egypt

Official Says Peace Talks Set for December

NC2611175491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1708 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, former assistant foreign minister and member of the Egyptian delegation to the peace talks, has announced that the Middle East multilateral negotiations will begin before the end of December.

Abu-al-Nasr, who was speaking after a meeting with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today, said that the venue for the multilateral talks has not been determined yet although several sites have been proposed.

Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr said that although the Egyptian delegation will not participate in the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks to be held in Washington on 4 December, Egypt will follow the negotiations closely, support the Arab negotiators with the experience it previously gained in this area, and provide any advice that is requested.

He continued that Egypt supports a swift settlement of the Middle East crisis on the basis of international legitimacy, land for peace, and the Palestinian right of self-determination.

It should be noted that Ambassador Abu-al-Nasr had previously left the post of assistant foreign minister on reaching retirement age. He was returned to service, however, and was included in the Egyptian delegation to the peace conference that began in Madrid on 30 October.

Al-Asad Asks Mubarak To Contact U.S. on Talks

JN2611132891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian diplomatic sources have affirmed to our radio station that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has informed President Mubarak of his agreement to participate in the bilateral talks to be held in Washington on 4 December.

Al-Asad informed President Mubarak that his country will continue a political dialogue to reach a solution to the problems in the region. However, al-Asad asked the Egyptian president to contact the U.S. Administration to reach an understanding on how to continue the bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel in light of Israel's intransigence and provocative decisions, which show that Israel has no desire to continue the peace process.

During the talks, al-Asad reiterated the need to reach an agreement on a joint Arab concept on the multilateral talks and on refusing to embark on these talks unless Israel announces its clear and frank compliance with Resolutions 242 and 338 resulting in its withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory.

This new Syrian position is considered a new development in the previous Syrian position, which called for achieving success in the second stage of talks before embarking on the multilateral talks.

President Mubarak met with al-Asad for approximately seven hours in Damascus yesterday to discuss developments in the peace process and the situation in the region. The Egyptian president returned home yesterday evening.

Jordanian Official Arrives With King's Message

NC2711092991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0846 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—'Ali al-Suhaymat, Jordanian deputy prime minister and minister of transportation, arrived in Cairo this morning on a brief visit to Egypt.

Al-Suhaymat is carrying a message from King Husayn of Jordan to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak concerning the current situation in the region and Jordan's position vis-a-vis the peace conference.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Jordanian Ambassador to Cairo Nabih Nimr met al-Suhaymat at the airport.

Press Views Shamir's Stand, U.S. 'Leverage'

NC2711091391 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 27 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial entitled *The Straw to Which Shamir Is Clinging*, AL-AKHBAR says: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir wants to turn the venue for the resumption of the talks that opened in Madrid almost a month ago into a major issue requiring additional negotiations to resolve it. Shamir should know that the venue for talks is a very minor issue that does not require prolonged deliberations. The only interpretation of Shamir's position on this issue is that he is looking for a pretext to disentangle himself from talks that he knows can only succeed through the restoration of rights to their owners.

In another editorial on this issue, AL-AHRAM says: Washington has set 4 December as the date for a second session of expert talks [muhadathat al-khubara'], making it clear that the United States, which cosponsors the talks, will play a major role. The U.S. role may actually surpass that of the participant countries, which are still not well adjusted to the idea of talking to each other and which feel isolated and threatened in the face of a relentless enemy.

AL-AHRAM adds: Apart from formalities, there is no doubt that the United States will play a major role in following up the negotiations. The United States, by dint of its international status, has powerful leverage on the crisis and is therefore capable of directing the participants back on the right track if they stray. Washington's and Moscow's representatives will be standing close to the doors of the negotiating rooms ready to interfere at any moment if any participant calls on them to do so.

Visiting Libyan Official Denies U.S. Charges

NC2611140891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, concerning the threats made against the Libyan Jamahiriyah by the United States and the charges concerning the explosion over Lockerbie, which the United States is trying to blame on Libya.

This disclosure came in a statement by Abu-Zayid 'Umar, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee (prime minister), following his meeting with President Mubarak today.

'Umar was asked about his meetings with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and about reports on a meeting between the U.S. ambassador to Cairo and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid in which the ambassador handed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid new evidence incriminating Libya. 'Umar said: There is neither old nor new evidence that could be used against the Jamahiriyah. He added: I have learned from Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that the file submitted by some countries is the same as the file handed to the Arab League. The secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee added: There isn't any evidence indicting the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He noted that competent authorities in Malta had declared that the investigations conducted in Malta proved that no unaccompanied baggage was aboard the flight, so how could we believe the word of one quarter and disbelieve the word of responsible and competent authorities in Malta?

'Umar added that the evidence supplied by the United States is trivial and that it is a fingernail-sized thing that acts as a timer for a detonator. The factory that manufactures these things has not yet been forced to shut its doors because of its dealings with Libya, assuming that it had even done business with Libya. He noted that he does not believe that this factory was established solely for Libya and he does not believe that Libya is the only buyer, if it is even proved that Libya even made purchases from the factory.

He pointed out that THE ECONOMIST published a statement by the manager of this factory in which he affirmed that the timers do not explode at high altitudes or under pressure, presuming, of course, that Libya actually bought timers. He noted that this evidence actually favors Libya.

Abu-Zayd 'Umar, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, emphasized that the Jamahiriyah has handled the U.S. charges with the utmost reason and self-restraint possible. He added that a judge from the competent authority has been assigned to examine the files that were received from the United States and Great Britain. A response will be made to this file when the necessary time needed to prepare an answer has passed.

He added: If it took them three years to prepare the file, then we will necessarily need some time, the time needed only to study it from all angles and prepare an answer to it by the competent and responsible parties.

Asked if there is an undeclared reason for the U.S. accusation, 'Umar said that Libya has absolutely no connection with this incident. He added that if the passengers on this flight are the victims of this terrorist act, it also (?seems) that the object is to make Libya a victim of this operation by using it as a pretext and excuse for aggression.

In response to a question about the role of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] in alleviating this tension, he said: We are a member of the AMU, just as we are part of the Arab nation. The AMU, he added, is part of the Arab nation, and the brother leader has sent an envoy, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, on a tour of the Maghreb countries. We expect that our Arab brothers will fully stand beside us in the face of the charges against us.

Asked if Libya had requested a meeting of the Arab League's council, he added: No. Not yet.

He was then asked about reports that the U.S. memorandum is not designed to incriminate two persons only but to indict someone higher up. 'Umar said: I have emphasized that Libya had nothing to do with this plane. This plane did not land or take off from any Libyan airport, did not cross Libyan airspace, and was not boarded by any Libyan citizen. This accusation, from beginning to end, is false.

Asked about recent incidents on the Egyptian-Libyan border, reports which were published by the Egyptian press, the Libyan official said: First, I would like to emphasize that the ties, links, and relations between the single Arab people in both Egypt and Libya were not born yesterday and will not end tomorrow. It is a long-standing process that no one can stop or prevent from achieving progress, which we have begun. He added: As for those who are trying to take ordinary incidents which take place in the streets of Tripoli as well as in the neighborhoods of Cairo, and blow them out of proportion and then describe them as incidents involving Egyptians and Libyans, these are exaggerations and intentional acts of fault-finding. He emphasized that relations between the Egyptian and Libyan families are good and that contacts between Egyptian and Libyan officials are dealing with issues that might hinder the progress that we have made.

Labor Party Leader Criticizes U.S. 'Terrorism'

NC2311200291 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Nov 91 p 1

[Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri article: "Labor Party: War to America If It Strikes Arabs Again"]

[Text] Our party has followed with anger and anxiety the sudden U.S. statements against fraternal Libya accusing it of bombing a U.S. civil airliner three years ago. The United States is using this incident as a pretext so it can say that it is considering all means to retaliate, including the use of force, and less likely, an economic, political, and diplomatic blockade. The United States maintains that it bases its position on the U.S. law that permits the pursuit of criminal suspects outside U.S. territory. The United States relied on this law to justify its invasion of Panama to arrest its president. However, pursuing suspects does not mean violating the sovereignty of independent countries or international legitimacy and law.

We view this serious development as a new chapter in the drama of U.S. domination and hegemony over Arab and Islamic nations' destiny. To put it simply, the United States does not accept any Arab or Islamic opposition to its schemes in the region, and it is planning to liquidate any source of opposition to its policy. Because Libya was the most outspoken Arab country in rejecting the Madrid conference, the time has come to punish it once again.

We are fed up with so much talk preaching ethics, wisdom, and morality from the United States, which ardently protects Israeli terrorism and the daily aerial bombardment of southern Lebanon, even during the peace talks. The United States itself has carried out acts of aggression and employed terrorism, and the shooting down of the Iranian civilian airliner is still fresh in our memory.

We call on the Egyptian Government and all forces of the Egyptian people to stand united against the expected tripartite "U.S.-French- British" aggression against Libya. We call for the rejection of all forms of the so-called economic and diplomatic sanctions against Libya, for they are forms of aggression, domination, and the use of force and coercion against our Arab and Islamic nation.

If the United States has a case, it can go, as the Libyan Secretariat for Foreign Liaison said, to the International Court of Justice.

The people will not remain silent and will not tolerate America's continued behavior as the ruler of the world. If Egypt, the Arabs, and Muslims abandon Libya, the United States will continue to "chastise", "strike," and "punish" every Arab or Islamic country one by one. Arab and Islamic people must stand up to this terrorist scenario. We must stop this humiliating domination of our destiny so as to end this deterioration and foil the plans to establish greater Israel. The Labor Party calls on the Egyptian people to raise their voices and denounce U.S. terrorism, and be prepared to stand up against any aggression. God is great and dignity for mujahidin.

Assembly Speaker Notes Charges Against Members

NC2411080591 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Nov 91 pp 2, 12

[Interview with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur by AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial staff in the paper's "Weekly Dialogue" column; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-JUMHURIYAH] The People's Assembly is facing an overwhelming storm of public criticism that it is unfit to continue and should be dissolved. The campaign is based on incidents, not mere rumors or suspicion. These incidents include the case of the deputies suspected of narcotics trafficking; the numerous lawsuits challenging the validity of membership of a great number of deputies, including the speaker himself, the two deputy speakers, and the staff of the People's Assembly Bureau; and the public prosecutor's demand to lift the immunity of some deputies for questioning over some criminal charges, etc. What do you think about all this?

[Surur] This campaign is biased and unfair. If we start by analyzing the narcotics trafficking charges, I have records that show that such accusations are common in democratic institutions abroad. We did not remain silent about these charges, however; we rushed to establish an extraordinary precedent in this respect. We asked the Interior Ministry to provide us with all its information on the deputies and we requested more information from the ministers of defense and justice. We then made the information available to the People's Assembly's Bureau, which referred the matter to the ethics committee. The committee investigated the issue thoroughly and objectively and reported its findings to the People's Assembly. In accordance with its by-laws, the assembly decided to refer the issue to the socialist prosecutor to investigate and report to the assembly. What this means is that the assembly took appropriate measures due to the grave nature of the charges and on the basis of the public's confidence in their legislative assembly.

Let us discuss this issue logically. Every day we hear of accusations against senior officials who hold key state positions of various levels of authority. Does this mean that the state's honor or responsibility are at stake? The answer is, of course, no, as long as the rule of law prevails and the procedures of accountability are followed. At any rate, in the next few days, maybe even hours, this episode will be concluded.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] A more significant issue is that concerning the question of challenging the validity of the membership of a great number of deputies.

[Surur] This is another point in favor of the assembly. Any citizen may file a challenge questioning the validity of the membership of a deputy in his constituency. We sent the challenges we received to the court of cassation. They were 256 challenges, which involved 70 percent of the deputies. The court of cassation issued its opinions, and the assembly's legislative committee rejected most of them. This does not constitute an infringement on the authority of the court of cassation because, according to the Constitution, the court's authority is confined to investigations, not rulings. The investigations result in opinions, not rulings, and these opinions are not binding on the body that requested them; they are merely advisory. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] There is a third incident. The public prosecutor has submitted more than 20 memoranda to lift the immunity of deputies accused of criminal acts.

[Surur] No. Not that many requests for lifting immunity have been received. The requests we received involve some building violations, a misdemeanor for assault, a bribery case. These are ordinary matters that do not tarnish the assembly's reputation as long as strict parliamentary procedures are observed. If any deputy is indicted, he is prone to losing his seat because he would be unworthy of the public trust. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] One of the deputies accused of narcotics trafficking has been referred to the Court of Ethics, three others have been referred to the Illicit Gains Department, and the findings of the investigations on the rest of the 10 deputies will be presented to the assembly. How will the assembly decide on the matter? Will it wait for the final rulings or adopt specific decisions?

[Surur] If there is strong evidence against any member, the assembly does not have to wait for the judicial rulings. [passage omitted] I believe that the assembly's decision on the matter will conform to the Constitution and the by-laws and that it will win public approval. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Can the People's Assembly last long with 260 challenges against its members, including one against the assembly speaker himself? Can it last with a motion of unconstitutionality against it?

[Surur] None of this brings the assembly's standing into question. The citizens' exercising of their democratic rights to litigation does not damage the parties against which these rights are exercised. [passage omitted]

Libya

Official Views Pan Am Bombing, U.S. 'Threats'

NC2211192791 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] Mahmud al-Busayfi, secretary of external information in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah [name and title as published], has said that Libya was expecting U.S. threats to escalate and that this increase came as no surprise to anyone.

In an interview with AL-AHALI, al-Busayfi said: Libya has announced more than once that it condemns all forms and shapes of terrorism, and it reasserts that it has no connection with the alleged Pan Am incident. We call for the formation of an international committee to investigate the incident. The United States, however, rejects our just demand. We do not know why the United States is afraid to allow this investigative group to look into the incident if it is certain that Libya had a role in it.

We asked him how he explains the U.S. threats against Libya.

Al-Busayfi replied: This is not the first time that the United States has resorted to the language of threats against Libya. We are not surprised by this sudden escalation reflected by U.S. statements and their impact on some of the Western countries and their media. These media groups are dominated by Zionism and are hostile to anything Arab and are biased in favor of the Arab nation's enemies who oppose the nation's legitimate aspirations for liberation and independence.

[Question] Does this mean that you expected this ferocious U.S. attack now?

[Al-Busayfi] Of course. In his address to leaders and representatives of more than two-thirds of the world during the great man-made river celebrations, brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned that the Jamahiriyah would be subject to provocation, blackmail, and attempted aggression because of its independent course of development. Anyone who follows the statements of the brother leader of the revolution will always notice his continuous assertion that America does not want anything good to happen in the Jamahiriyah and that it continues its blockade and pressure attempts to influence Libyan decision making, which is constantly eager to be independent. It seems that the Jamahiriyah people's stand on their independence does not please America and subjects us to intense pressure and unending attempts of provocation.

[Question] Do you think there is a specific U.S. plan to attack Libya?

[Al-Busayfi] Naturally. All the threats represent nothing but pretexts for aggression. The United States knows too well that Libya has not and will not practice terrorism, but it is trying to find justifications for aggression against Libya. As I said earlier, this is not the first time that the United States has threatened us. It has already committed an act of aggression against Libya and bombed our territory. It actually bombed the residence of the leader of the revolution.

We assert the statement of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison condemning all forms of terrorism and categorically denying any involvement of Libya in the aircraft incident. We call for an international committee to be established to investigate the plane incident. It is astonishing that the United States rejects this request despite its alleged commitment to international legitimacy.

[Question] How do you explain the U.S. refusal to have the aircraft incident be investigated by an international committee?

[Al-Busayfi] This refusal embodies the glaring contradiction in the language of those who at times speak about peace and a new world order and at the same time employ the tone of threats, intimidation, and the use of force against small peoples, which results in shaking stability and security. The big powers' recourse to spreading misleading charges against small nations is a type of terrorism, one which the world must reject and support us in confronting it.

Sudan Offers Support Against United States, UK

LD2611181291 Tripoli JANA in English 1713 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli al-harth [November] 26/JANA/Arab Maghreb Union Pool—The leader of the revolution received a cable from Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir chairman of the revolution command and Ministers Councils in sisterly Sudan. The cable renewed the solidarity and support of the Sudanese people and their standing beside the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in their confrontation of the American and British threats. It confirmed that the present provocation is just one part in the renewed chain of plots against the Arab homeland and the Islamic world.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir confirmed in his cable that the American and British threats against the Great Jamahiriyah lacks fundamentals and basics of legitimacy and justice. He indicated that the forces of oppression and aggression, having struck Iraq, and having sought to distort the Palestinian right through the conference of Madrid, are presently [word indistinct] to mute the voice of dignity arising in the dear land of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Lt Gen. al-Bashir added: The [words indistinct] to be retracted of those issues urge us to establish one [word indistinct] front, to regroup the Arab and Islamic ranks in one front against the combined aggression. This front shall be the herald for unity and [words indistinct] both Arab and Islamic arenas and a further step toward its achievement in the land of reality.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Denies Canadian Charges

LD2611150191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1255 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Nov (JANA)— A source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has denied statements made by the Canadian foreign minister. The minister was quoted as saying that Libya is linked to the group occupying the Canadian

Embassy in Haiti. The source said that Libya has no link whatsoever with the subject of the Canadian foreign minister's remarks.

The source added: We find such statements strange and we would like to emphasize the following: First, the Great Jamahiriyah rejects the use of such methods, including the occupation of embassies, in principle, and second, the implication of Libya in such occurrences at this precise moment can only be interpreted as concealing suspicious and tendentious intentions.

Sudan

SPLA Factions Agree To Cease Hostilities

AB2611190991 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Nairobi, Nov 26 (AFP)—Two Sudanese rebel factions said Tuesday they had agreed on a cease-fire after reports that more than 100,000 people had fled their homes in southern Sudan to escape fierce fighting between the groups.

Fighting broke out between the two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) several months ago after dissident commanders called for radical change in the movement, which has fought an eight-year war to free the mainly Christian and African south from domination by the Islamic and Arab north.

The dissidents, led by commanders Riek Mashar Teny-Dhurgon and Lam Akol, accused SPLA leader John Garang of being dictatorial and demanded that the SPLA become a separatist movement and form an independent southern state instead of fighting for a united but secular Sudan.

A joint statement issued here by Akol and commander James Wani Igga, Garang's deputy, said the two groups "have agreed to cease all hostilities" from Wednesday. The agreement was reached during church-sponsored talks between the two sides in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Akol told AFP that the talks would go on. "The cease-fire does not mean that we have resolved all our differences. The cease-fire is to provide a conducive atmosphere for the talks and to allow relief supplies to get through," he said. He declined to elaborate on the remaining disagreements.

Armed Forces Deny Strength of Juba Rebel Attack

EA2611203991 Khartoum SUNA in English 1645 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Nov (SUNA)—The Armed Forces' spokesman has denied categorically the news circulated by hostile elements on unstable security situation in Juba and stoppage of air flights to Juba. Maj-Gen Muhammad Abdullah Uwaydah, in a press statement he issued Tuesday described as baseless the allegations on rebels' attacking of Juba town, stoppage of air flights to and from Juba and unstable security situation in Juba.

He explained that the fact was that a group of rebels "in a moment of despair and wantonness shelled randomly a number of civilian targets last Wednesday, 20th November, and then turned tail." Maj-Gen Uwaydah said the rebels responsible of shelling Juba are being pursued by the Armed Forces.

The Armed JFrces spokesman, meanwhile, underlined that the rebellion movement, following its recent defeats at all the operation zones and fronts attempted to infiltrate in the areas of Kafi Kanji [as received] and Hufrat al-Nahas [in] southern Darfur state with the hope to achieve information gain, but the armed forces and the citizens in the area have killed and wounded many of them and arrested over 200 rebels. The statement revealed that it was not strange that the majority of rebel captives were children at ages not exceeding 12 years.

'Sources' on 'Fragmentation' of Saddam's Family

PM2611163491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 Nov 91 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Watban Tightens Noose Around 'Udayy's Neck...al-Duri the Next Target"]

[Excerpts] Amman, London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Baghdad's nights speak only one language: gunfire, missiles, and armed battles. Citizens of Baghdad start the morning by inspecting the effects and casualties of the night's fighting when they wake up. Baghdad is still a jungle of arms despite the threat of the ultimate sanction announced by Saddam Husayn and his interior minister in connection with the surrender of weapons.

The appointment of the new interior minister, Watban Ibrahim, Saddam's half-brother, coincided with the collapse of security in the capital of Baghdad, especially in the districts where Saddam Husayn and the pillars of his regime live. This was according to Iraqi opposition sources that arrived in Amman this week. [passage omitted]

Explosions have occurred in Baghdad's Awr District, where senior Republican Guard officers live.

The sources emphasize that an armed battle took place in the offices of the BABIL newspaper owned by 'Udayy, the Iraqi dictator's son, the day after the announcement of the removal of Defense Minister Husayn Kamil (Saddam's son-in-law). The battle was between the forces guarding 'Udayy and his supporters on the one hand and a military group under the command of Watban Ibrahim (Saddam's brother), later appointed interior minister, on the other. The sources add that 'Udayy was forced to close his newspaper and form his own armed "militia" amid further fragmentation within the family. In the paper's last issue he wrote to warn his adversaries. He said that he would return after "removing the obstacles" to his paper's publication. [passage omitted]

The sources added that the blazing family conflicts affected Vice President 'Izzat Ibrahim, who moved his supporters and sons to his home. He has confined himself there since the family conflict, which led to the defense minister's removal, erupted in the middle of last month. They emphasized that 'Izzat Ibrahim stands by the minister and his son-in-law ('Udayy)... or that he is now regarded as a member of the bloc that suffered a blow in the struggle for positions.

They said that the next move will be directed against 'Izzat Ibrahim and that hints of it began to emanate from the new interior minister's measures against "armed men" in the town of al-Dur, the vice president's birthplace. Hints also began to spread following the Kurdish delegation's visit to Baghdad over a week ago. The delegation was unable to meet with 'Izzat Ibrahim, who has assumed the task of negotiating with the Kurdistan Front since the autonomy negotiations started last April.

Saddam Said Plotted To Assassinate King Husayn

NC2611220291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The Egyptian newspaper AL-NABA' carried in its latest weekly issue the second part of a report on the current conflict between yesterday's allies, the defeated tyrant Saddam Husayn and Jordanian King Husayn.

The report said in part that King Husayn learned from U.S. intelligence sources that the head of Iraqi intelligence proposed to the tyrant a major plot to assassinate King Husayn, as well as many other alternative plots in case the major plot failed. The paper adds that the tyrant decided to use these plots and his intelligence groups are now looking into ways to implement them.

The report also says that at the same time that Husayn has been trying to protect himself and stay alive, Saddam was on the other hand [word indistinct] his attempt to remove Husayn. In fact, he continued to meet with the leaders of his intelligence service and a new and highly secret assassination attempt was prepared.

The report said: The latest of these attempts occurred after Husayn returned from his secret visit to the United States on 12 November. The court doctor noticed that the food smelled strange. Experiments determined the food was poisoned. Jordanian intelligence investigations revealed that the intelligence of the tyrant's regime had recruited the royal Jordanian cook and put him on their payroll.

Saddam Receives Cable From Turkish Society

JN2611181291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Nov 91

["Text" of cable from the "constitutent board" of the Turkish-Iraqi Friendship Society to Saddam Husayn; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed President Saddam Husayn: Heartfelt greetings. The Turkish-Iraqi Friendship Society sympathizes with the Iraqi people, who are undergoing a severe ordeal as a result of the inhuman blockade imposed on them by America and its allies. Our society denounces the U.S. policy against friendly Iraq, and denounces the continued blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. We pledge to you that we will support you in demanding that international organizations save the friendly Iraqi people, who are threatened with death as a result of the medicine and food shortage.

Please accept our greetings, Mr. President.

[signed] The Constituent Board of the Turkish-Iraqi Friendship Society.

'Deceptive' Bush Remarks on Sanctions Viewed

JN2611172491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary; from the "Radio Newspaper" program]

[Text] Gentlemen: War criminal Bush tried to downplay the impact of the economic blockade on Iraq and shirk its consequences, describing it as an ineffective measure, as the date nears that the UN Security Council set to reconsider the unjust U.S. resolution on imposing economic blockade on the Iraqi people and as Arab and world awareness of the scope of the crime committed against Iraq through the military and economic aggression against it increases. This deceptive statement runs counter to the reports of the specialized international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the Red Cross, UNICEF, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. They all published reports asserting the harm done by the economic blockade, describing it as doing extremely serious harm to the Iraqi people, especially children and the elderly.

It seems that Bush feels there is growing world solidarity with Iraq. Thus, he made these deceptive remarks in desperate self-defense and to distract attention from the crimes he committed against Iraq and against the Human Rights Declaration and other international charters.

Bush, who banned the export of food and medicine to Iraq and ordered a boycott of Iraqi oil, is in effect committing a heinous crime and using a prohibited weapon against mankind that cannot be sanctioned by the world or allowed to continue. Neither the U.S. Administration nor its terrorist president can hide this ugly crime in which bread is used as a weapon against children, women, and civilians.

Thus, popular denunciation campaigns against this wrongful measure are growing and spreading. They are not confined to Baghdad, but now include several Arab and world capitals. Several papers and major media institutions demand that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq be lifted and that interference in Iraq's internal affairs be brought to an end. Bush, who defied international will through lies, fabrications, and malicious maneuvers, definately will not be able to continue this aggressive approach for long. Soon, he will be obliged to follow the sound path, to abide by international will and laws, and to go back on his terrorist, aggressive policy.

U.S. Attempts To Isolate Leader From People

JN2711101191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has described Bush's wagering on separating Iraq's people and leadership as a futile and losing wager.

In an editorial today, the paper stresses that the Iraqi people will always remember, and will never forget, that Bush's barbaric aggression targeted their lives and existence.

The paper notes that with the approach of the UN Security Council's discussion of the unjust blockade imposed on our people, the U.S. Administration has deliberately escalated its poisonous political and media campaign against Iraq and its brave historic leadership. It began to make cheap lies and shed crocodile tears for the suffering Iraqi people, imagining that it can forge facts or conceal them, not only from the people of Iraq, but also from the world public opinion that began to voice its denunciation of the blockade and to put an end to this hideous crime which is being perpetrated against the people of Iraq in the name of international legitimacy.

The paper stresses that regardless of the covers of delusion, fabrication, and disinformation it is using, or the shuffling and forging of its exposed cards, the Bush administration will continue to be unable to conceal its major objective behind these fierce campaigns. This is the continuation of aggression against Iraq and of the economic sanctions on its steadfast people. This was announced by the U.S. Department of State spokeswoman.

The paper says: The U.S. Administration had earlier tried pressure, threats, and blackmail, and used all its burned and exposed cards to achieve its evil objectives and intentions. However, it failed to achieve these objectives and intentions despite all the resources and scientific and technological means it possesses. Their military aggression, despite its barbaric and fierce nature and abominable crimes, failed to break the will of the great people of Iraq. The chapter of treason and treachery has also failed to undermine their firm national will and their rallying around their leader Saddam Husayn. Here is the unjust blockade, with all its harshness and consequences, unable to affect the Iraqis' morale, convictions, and national and pan-Arab options.

The paper adds: Just as all the enemies' wagers have proven fruitless after they have been thwarted by the steadfastness, awareness, and principled immunity of our struggling people, Bush's wager on separating the people of Iraq from their experienced and honest leadership will undoubtedly fail. The failure will be because it is a futile and losing wager that clashes with the Iraqis' deep-rooted conviction that the leadership of Saddam Husayn—given its genuine national principles and values and the noble human and national aspirations it represents—is alone qualified to lead them on the path of progress, development, and decent living. This leadership has brought them the best and greatest achievements and gains in all walks of life. This leadership is the guarantee of the present and future and the ever-flowing fountain of good qualities. It is also a leadership that embraces an independent national, pan-Arab and human approach.

The paper says that the U.S. Administration does not fool anybody when it weeps over the suffering of the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people still remember, and will never forget, that Bush's savage aggression was targeted at their lives and existence; that this aggression bombed their shelters, schools and places of worship; that the aircraft of Bush and his allies destroyed Iraq's cultural and economic structure; and that this war criminal Bush himself is the one who imposed on them an economic blockade and an approach leading to hunger and depravity under the guise of international legitimacy. Thus, Bush and his aggressor allies are responsible, first and foremost, for the suffering of the Iraqi people and all their ills and environmental, health, and food disasters.

Concluding, the paper stresses that despite all its lies, allegations, and falsehoods, the Bush administration remains unable to drive a wedge between the leader and his people and unable to change the convictions of Iraqis or undermine their will. The great people of Iraq are aware enough and would not be deceived by disinformation and distortion campaigns and pressure. The Iraqi people also have a strong will and would not yield or submit to the will of enemies. They are also more determined to reinforce unity and coalescence and to pursue their victorious march behind the banner of the knight leader Saddam Husayn, their national symbol and leader on the path of jihad and construction. May the lowly be defeated.

Marches, Memos Demand End to Blockade

JN2611145091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Iraqi and Arab professional and popular federations, unions, and societies continued to condemn and denounce the continuation of the unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, although Iraq honored its obligations in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The Iraqi and Arab organizations demanded that firm action be undertaken to lift the wrongful economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people and to save millions of Iraqis from the tragic situation that they are experiencing as a result of the food and medicine shortage. This was done during massive demonstrations today in which memorandums of protest were handed to representatives of UN missions, international humanitarian organizations, and a number of foreign embassies in Baghdad.

Representatives and members of the General Federation of Cooperative Peasants Societies, the Agricultural Engineers Union, and the Arab Veterinarians Union handed memorandums to the UN, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Red Cross representatives in Baghdad, as well as the Soviet and Chinese Embassies. They demanded that serious action be undertaken to lift the unjust economic blockade and to implement the UN Charter and international and humanitarian charters and norms calling for providing a decent, honorable life and for not interfering in peoples' domestic affairs to give them free scope to build their homelands by themselves. [passage omitted]

Further Marches Reported

JN2611201891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 19

[Text] Protest marches were held in Baghdad today. Marchers denounced the continued unjust blockade against the Iraqi people, demanding that it be lifted, as the causes that led to its adoption do not exist any longer.

Arab communities organized a protest march that headed for UNICEF headquarters in Baghdad and denounced the unfair economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. They submitted a memorandum of protest to the organization, urging it to move swiftly to lift the unfair blockade. Marchers urged international and humanitarian organizations to play their humanitarian role and assume their responsibility to end the Iraqi people's suffering.

Iraqi Airways workers denounced the continued wrongful economic blockade imposed on the children, women, and elderly of Iraq. In their chants and songs during the protest march that they organized today and which headed to the UN mission's office in Baghdad. They stressed the need to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, and handed a memorandum of protest addressed to UN secretary general to his representative in Iraq. They demanded that the unfair blockade be lifted in their memorandum.

Iraq's children denounced the crime of the continued unjust economic blockade against the struggling Iraqi people. The also denounced the crime of denying them the most basic requirements of life. This came in messages that were addressed to the UN secretary general and heads of state of the UN Security Council member states. The messages were handed to the UN mission's office in Iraq and the UNICEF office. The children called for ending the suffering of Iraq's children, women, and elderly in their messages.

Health Minister Says Blockade Death Toll 68,093

JN2611112791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0811 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has announced that the medicine and food blockade imposed on the Iraqi people has caused the death of more than 68,093 citizens of various age groups during the period 2 August 1990, when it was enforced, through September 1991.

In a statement to INA, the minister added that the deaths were distributed as follows: 19,863 children under five due to diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition, and contagious diseases; and 48,230 citizens over the age of five who died of cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart diseases.

The minister said the increasing number of infant mortalities in Iraq clearly shows that the malicious objective sought by the United States and its allies through their war and aggressive blockade targets the children in Iraq.

The minister added that maintaining the unfair blockade in a way that denies Iraqi children access to medicine and milk is a heinous crime that cannot be condoned by international norms and charters. He said that the imposition of this unfair blockade, which seeks to starve and harm children, is unprecedented in the history of mankind. [passage omitted]

The minister again appealed, on behalf of the Iraqi Ministry of Health, to all international health organizations and health ministries of the world states to work to lift the medicine and food blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He urged them to put into effect the approved health concepts and charters enshrined in the WHO Charter, and asked them to realize the objectives of other world health agencies. He said there is still need for medical and health aid, adding that the aid that Iraq receives meets only five percent of its requirements of medicine and medical supplies.

The minister recalled Iraq's unceasing demand that world health organizations should work to release the frozen assets earmarked for the purchase of medicines and medical supplies, the costs of which were paid in advance before 2 August 1990. He pointed out that the Ministry of Health provided all world health organizations with lists of the names of companies and countries with which contracts had been concluded to purchase medicines, and which received in advance the price of these medicines. He noted, however, that these companies and countries had failed to honor their contracts and export medicines to Iraq.

Concluding his statement, the minister warned that the health situation in Iraq will worsen if the blockade is prolonged. He stressed that the epidemic proportions of the medical situation are well known to all specialists. He added: The links of sickness and disease complement one another. If the food and medicine blockade imposed on Iraq is maintained, malnutrition problems will exacerbate proportionate to the length of time it is extended. Similarly, there will be an increasing scarcity of medical and diagnostic materials. The number of deaths consequently will increase. In this regard, he noted the Harvard University report, which projected that more than 170,000 Iraqi children would die over the coming months unless the economic blockade, especially the ban on medicine and food supplies, is lifted.

Regime Forces Launch Attacks on Kurdish Areas

Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah Under Fire

NC2611193091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1920 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The forces of the defeated tyrant launched violent attacks on the Kurds in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah. The UN secretary general's envoy affirms that the regime of the defeated tyrant used helicopters against the refugees in the north.

'Thousands' Flee Toward Iran

NC2611214291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Kurdish sources have stated that the forces of the defeated tyrant have been launching violent attacks on the Kurds in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah since noon yesterday, forcing Kurdish forces to retreat toward the border area with Iran.

The Turkish ANATOLIA News Agency cites the radio of the Kurdish Socialist Party as having reported that since noon yesterday, the forces of the tyrant have been launching violent attacks using tanks supported by helicopters against the areas of Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah. This forced Kurdish forces and the civilian population to retreat to Rawandoz and (al-Diwanah), near the border with Iran.

The radio added that Saddam's forces were deployed in the area of 'Aqrah, near Mosul, and near the city of Dahuk. It said that thousands of civilians have begun to flee toward Iran and that many of them are facing difficult circumstances.

In a later report, REUTER said that the fighting is still continuing and that the situation in the north has taken a dangerous turn.

Inner Cabinet Rejects 4 Dec Peace Talks Date

TA2711100691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The Inner Cabinet has decided that Israel will not participate in the bilateral talks in Washington on the date set by the United States, namely 4 December. This was learned by our political correspondent, Arye Golan. He notes that he was also told that the Inner Cabinet decided that Israel will suggest that the talks be held in our region. This has not been officially confirmed yet. Earlier, our correspondent reported that the ministers left the session, but refused to talk with the press on instruction from the prime minister. [passage omitted]

Date 'Inconvenient' for Israel

JN2711105491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1033 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The Inner Cabinet concluded its meeting a short while ago after discussing the U.S. proposal to hold direct talks between Israel and the Arab states in Washington on 4 December. No official statement was issued on the Israeli reply to the U.S. proposal. Information leaking from the meeting, however, says Israel decided to comply with the U.S. proposal, but it wants negotiations to begin on a date other than that fixed by the U.S. Administration. It has also transpired that the Inner Cabinet has found that it is inappropriate to accept this date because it is inconvenient for Israel. The fixing the date for negotiations should come after holding sufficient consultations between the two sides.

It has been learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will today draft the Israeli reply to the U.S. proposal. He will stress Israel's desire to resume direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states after fixing another date for the start of these negotiations.

9 Dec Suggested as Opening Date

TA2711112591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Israel suggests postponing the opening of the bilateral talks in Washington by a few days. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Israel is requesting that the date for the opening of the talks, scheduled for 4 December, be deferred to 9 December. The reasoning: the short notice given to prepare for the next phase of the talks. This was the Inner Cabinet's decision this afternoon. Ministers in that body have stressed that Israel's response to the U.S. invitation is not negative and the argument is merely over the date. The Inner Cabinet also clarified that Israel is prepared to conduct only two rounds of talks in Washington. These rounds will deal exclusively with procedural matters, but will not involve deliberations on substance.

Our correspondent points out that the proposal endorsed by the Inner Cabinet was raised by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and that only three ministers voted against it: Ari'el Sharon, Yuval Ne'eman, and Refa'el Eytan. All the other ministers supported it.

The National Religious Party [NRP] congratulated the prime minister for the Inner Cabinet resolution. Sha'ul Yahalomi, the NRP's political secretary, told our correspondent, Shlomo Raz, that the resolution is an expression of maturity and national fortitude.

No U.S. 'Dictate' Accepted

TA2711104591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1022 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Telephone conversation between anchor Rafi Reshef and political correspondent Natan Gutman and Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Gilhar] The ministers, who have come to the Knesset to report on the resolution adopted at the Inner Cabinet, said that 4 December is not a convenient date for Israel. Most of ministers said during the session that no U.S. dictate should be accepted and that a date on such an event should be determined following consultations or negotiations. There was talk about two first rounds of talks in Washington, not more. This, at least, was the opinion of some of the ministers who came to the Knesset.

[Gutman] Let us stress what we have heard: There was a yes in principle to going to Washington, but a no to the date. This is the current approach. Israel is not interested in going to Washington on 4 December. It is not convenient for us and we have not yet worked out all the details. That is why the decision in principle is to accept an invitation to Washington, but not at the date specified.

One of the ministers with whom we talked reported that the prime minister will formulate the detailed resolution later on today, but the minister wished to emphasize that basically the tone is not negative. It is positive, but Israel has reservations about the date for the deliberations.

[Reshef] Is it simply that we will not be prepared in one week?

[Gutman] It is just that we wish to discuss various issues with the United States before we can go to Washington. We simply cannot go there before these matters have been clarified. There are a number of subjects on the agenda. These are what were mentioned before as Israeli conditions, and we simply want a few more days to discuss them. The date, after all, is next Wednesday, and we reached a decision only today, so we need more time.

[Reshef] In other words we accept the invitation in principle, but want a deferral.

[Gutman] This is the mood at the moment. We have no further detail, as a rather strict blackout was imposed on the proceedings of the session itself. The prime minister is currently in session with his aides and will formulate the detailed resolution later on today. It was reported

that part of the resolution, which will be transmitted to the United States today, has also been texted, but this is the general mood.

[Reshef] I presume you have no clue as to the atmosphere that prevailed when that decision was made.

[Gutman] I would not like to commit myself to saying that a vote was taken at all. Very often such decisions are made with some kind of general consent or with a nod of the head, and very often no vote is taken in Inner Cabinet deliberations.

[Reshef] Thank you, and thank you, too, Dov Gilhar.

Levi To Deliver Response to U.S.

TA2711124291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Our political correspondent updates that Israel will not insist that the bilateral talks in Washington deal only with procedural matters. Foreign Minister David Levi will deliver Israel's response to the U.S. invitation this evening.

Talks To Include 'Substantive Issues'

TA2711140391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Official sources have told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the talks in Washington will not be limited only to procedural issues, but will also deal with substantive issues.

The Israeli response to the United States will not include any preconditions for the continuation of the negotiating process. Although Israel will request that the three bilateral teams not hold their meetings simultaneously and that only two rounds of talks be conducted in Washington before the negotiations are moved to the Middle East, there is no conditional link between Israel's requests and a positive reply to them.

Levi Pledges Process To Continue

TA2711113991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister David Levi came to the Knesset at the end of the Inner Cabinet discussion, but refused to comment on the decisions. Still, he added one thing: The process will continue. This was his reaction to a motion submitted by Knesset Member Yosi Beilin on the bilateral talks. Our correspondent, Yo'el Nir, reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Levi] In days when invitations are being sent—and I will not get into the manner in which they were conveyed; I will refrain from commenting on that in order not to add fuel to the fire—it is necessary to look ahead, with a view to tomorrow. Still, many things have been done which every government should have seen in the proper light. If reservations or objections are expressed, does that mean that the government is saying that it is not continuing with the peace process? I will add no more.

[Nir] The government may express reservations or objections, said the foreign minister, but he claimed that the talks will continue and there will be coordination with the United States. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister firmly rejected the contention that Israel is to blame, accusing instead the Arabs, and mainly the Syrians.

David Levi concluded his statement by saying:

[Levi] We will submit our response today, and it will be positive. What we think and believe that must be included in the body of our answer should never be viewed as an obstacle, God forbid. We will continue to promote the process and will guard against dangers and obstacles others are trying to present on our path. Thank you. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres—Shamir's 'Thin' Pretexts Harm Talks

TA2711122191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Roni Daniyel—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Shalom, sir.

[Peres] Shalom.

[Daniyel] You heard about the Inner Cabinet decision.

[Peres] Indeed.

[Daniyel] The argument was that we do not have enough time to complete preparations and consultations. Do you buy it?

[Peres] No. Look, I would like to make the following substantive comments: To date, up to Shamir's government, all the previous governments—whether they were led by the Alignment or the Likud—have continuously and consistently said that we are prepared to come and meet anywhere. This stubborn insistence on the venue, a campaign which the government lost, was unnecessary. I believe that this is another case where we are digging in our heels and trying to zigzag, but in the end it harms only us. We say one thing on Monday, then on Wednesday we say something else; on Saturday evening we feel slighted, and on Sunday we do not.

As for the essence of the matter, Israel is interested in appearing to be the leader of the peace process, the party interested in its promotion and progress. Yet it is doing exactly the opposite of what is necessary in terms of presenting the Israeli character and position. Tell me why? Do you mean to tell me that in five days they will be able to prepare everything, but not before?

These pretexts are very thin and damage us. They are not required by the actual issue at hand, so that this position generally triggers surprise. It indicates that Shamir has neither a peace strategy nor a wise tactical approach in conducting it.

[Daniyel] Perhaps the basis for this resolution was the bitter feeling following the U.S. dictate: a date that had not been coordinated, coupled with a very compressed timetable, in which Israel is presented as nothing but a player or as a marionette which should react or behave according to U.S. dictates.

[Peres] Well, then, let them decide not to proceed with the peace process. But if they postpone this by five days, will the whole world panic?

The point is that Mr. Shamir, too, said that the Americans said they would wait two weeks, and they did. We should have told them that two weeks would not be enough; that we would require a month. But the government accepted the two-week hiatus, and Mr. Baker apparently mentioned this to Mr. Shamir at some later stage.

This entire episode seems to indicate uncommon lameness. I regret to say that as opposition leader, I see our government losing one campaign after the other, time after time, for no reason at all. These are all matters which could easily have been anticipated and generated a tactic that will bring advantage, not damage, to Israel.

[Daniyel] Thank you very much, sir.

[Peres] You are quite welcome.

Shevardnadze Urges Shamir To Accept Invitation

TA2711092291 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Nov 91 pp 1, 13

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israel has received a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze urging Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi to comply with the U.S. invitation to come to Washington next week to conduct negotiations with the Arabs.

Shevardnadze's message reads: "The Soviet Union allows itself to appeal to Israel and advise it to accept the invitation to pursue the direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors and the Palestinians in the United States next week."

Officials in Jerusalem believe the Soviet message was coordinated with the United States in a bid to influence Israeli policy makers prior to today's Inner Cabinet session. [passage omitted]

Correction to U.S. To Declare Support for Talks

TA2711095591

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "U.S. To Declare Supprot for Talks in Region," published in the 26 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 26:

Page 26, column two, first paragraph, sentence two make read: ...The Inner Cabinet is expected.... (supplying missing word "Inner");

Same page, same column, paragraph two, sentence two make read: ....The Inner Cabinet is expected.... (supplying missing word "Inner").

Bush-Shamir 'Mutual Resentment' Exposed

TA2611155491 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Nov 91 p 9

[Yehuda Litani commentary: "The Crisis in Store"]

[Text] Suppose the United States was a country with a clear Jewish majority, with Yitzhaq Shamir its president and David Levi its secretary of state. Suppose this American-Jewish president had been trying for months to go on a long peace expedition in the Middle East. Suppose the representative of one of those countries—George Bush, the prime minister of Israel—were to go to the United States to talk with the president and secretary of state, but was to address an audience of Christian Protestants at some university in California prior to his trip to Washington. Suppose in his speech the prime minister were to state categorically that he would not agree to any territorial concessions whatsoever because there cannot be two states in Israel, and that the Protestant majority and the Muslim minority must live in one state stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. Suppose Prime Minister George Bush were to declare that Israel would not cede even one inch of land, to wild cheers and a standing ovation from the Protestant audience.

It would be interesting to see the reaction of U.S. President Yitzhaq Shamir and to hear what his close aides, beginning with Yosi Ben-Aharon and ending with David Levi, would whisper in his ear. The answer is rather obvious: Let's show them they can't make fools of us! Otherwise, all the peace moves you have been planning and working on will be sunk at this point!

That is exactly what U.S. President George Bush did. Perhaps he chose an overly blunt and offensive way, and perhaps Yitzhaq Shamir and his ministers are right when they say Israel cannot be treated like a banana republic, as former Prime Minister Menahem Begin once told U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

The latest incidents did not contribute to any goodwill between Bush and Shamir. On the contrary, they only intensified past rancor. Shamir will undoubtedly show his muscle to the Americans following the humiliation,

not just of the prime minister but of the entire State of Israel. After all, there will neither be a conference nor peace without Israel's participation.

My scenario is hypothetical, and in fact it is we who are dependent on the United States and not the other way around. Shamir may show some muscle here and voice some opposition there, but he must take Israel's extremely fragile situation into account. We cannot conceivably absorb masses of Soviet immigrants if we stay "mad" at the only superpower in the world. We cannot pursue a massive construction drive in Israel and the territories or curb inflation and unemployment without aid from Washington. We have nobody else to turn to at the moment, and Shamir knows that very well.

Through the latest humiliation of Shamir, the White House and the Department of State delivered a clear message: We very much appreciate your honest and candid approach, Mr. Shamir, but you cannot expect us to keep quiet and not react to what you said in Los Angeles. So—you do not intend to cede even one inch? And you say so out loud a few days before your meeting with President Bush? We can also state our opinions out loud. Do you want guarantees, aid, grants, and political support from us? We are very well aware of your views, but you should not go undermining the negotiations from the very beginning. Please, be realistic!

This is the umpteenth round in the ongoing boxing match between Bush and Shamir, and it is now Israel's turn to retaliate. Shamir will summon his ministers for consultations, and they will decide not to accept the U.S. dictates. After all, if we give in to dictates at this early stage, what will happen when the time comes to make the fateful decisions, and not just marginal and technical ones, such as the venue and date of the talks.

The Americans will realize they overreacted and will change the date—say, to the 9th rather than the 4th of December—and things will calm down until the next round. Nevertheless, we should not forget the lesson of the latest round, which is that the mutual resentment between Bush and Shamir, thus far internalized and restrained, is now out in the open. Not only is there no goodwill between the two men, but the real flare-up between them is approaching. A few months ago an American very close to the president told me that "Bush simply cannot stand Shamir." The man's words definitely sound true now.

Shamir is not the only one who cannot afford to stay "mad." Bush, too, cannot afford to call off the peace moves with a thundering explosion at this point. He needs an impressive achievement on the foreign front in view of his precarious situation at home and the dire state of the U.S. economy. There can be no progress in the process on which Bush is betting his entire stake without Shamir and Israel.

Consequently, despite the lack of goodwill, the two men need each other: the one to raise his ratings, and the other to fill his depleted coffers. That is why no flare-ups or fireworks should be expected at this stage. Everything will go back to normal within a few days. If it is not one date, it will be another; if it is not one city, it will be another. The real flare-up and rupture have been put off to a later date. The rupture eventually will come, considering the personal background, the political positions of the two sides, and the interests of the two countries. What we heard and saw this week was only the prelude, a sign of things to come.

Commentary on 'Distressful' U.S. 'Dictates'

TA2611180891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Nov 91 p 9

[Dalya Shehori commentary: "U.S. Distinction Between Procedure and Substance"]

[Text] The United States has presented Israel with faits accomplis or dictates, if somebody prefers to be gross or feel sorry for himself, since the Madrid conference. The truth is that U.S. dictates up to now have been distressful because of their very existence and the precedence they set, but not because of their content. The United States did not use them to harm any vital or substantial Israeli interest.

That is the wisdom of U.S. diplomacy. Had the dictate been about the status of Jerusalem, for instance, the United States might have started World War III. However, when the United States informs Israel that the Palestinian representative will receive the right to speak for 45 minutes at the Madrid conference or that on 4 December the sides will convene for the start of bilateral and direct negotiations, what can Israel do? Blow up the Madrid conference or the peace process? Would anybody in the world understand that? Would anybody justify it?

The United States discovered that by dictating procedural issues which touch on the essence, but are not the essence itself, it can ensnare Israel. U.S. diplomacy should be given a 10 for courage and wisdom, or "creative thinking" in Baker's language. Shamir's method is to see everything as an issue of substance, whether it is one of procedure or genuine substance. That is how he managed to hold up the negotiations in the clarification process he started on the five Baker points or in the opposition he presented to the international conference. Washington learned its lesson: If you are stuck with Shamir over procedural issues, just proceed; do not listen to him, because if you let him run the show, he will drag you into an endless process of clarifications. He has a l-o-t of time and patience for that, and in the end he will come out the winner, as he did with George Shultz.

The new U.S. resourcefulness can be seen as an arrogant approach that is sometimes genuinely annoying, but one cannot deny that it works. That is perhaps the only way to catch Shamir in a situation he does not like and hold onto him. Many among us were angered by Secretary of State James Baker's humiliation of Shamir when, in their meeting, he did not even hint that an hour and a half

later he was going to dispatch the invitations to the sides with a fixed date and venue. Shamir understood from Baker, and even told correspondents after the meeting, that "the discussions on the venue for the talks will continue." That is a humiliating situation, especially since the two countries have friendly relations and since the United States must appear as an honest broker for the sides in the current peace process. Baker did not even take the trouble to hand Shamir or the Israeli Embassy in Washington a copy of the letter that the U.S. ambassador in Israel presented in Jerusalem. Shamir, who had planned to continue discussing the venue in his meeting with Bush, found himself talking with Bush after the letters were already dispatched.

Although Washington did treat Jerusalem as a subordinate, the picture would be incomplete if we failed to note that Jerusalem was not entirely innocent, nor was it completely uninformed about what was going on. Contacts have been held regarding the venue of negotiations ever since the end of the Madrid conference. Israel kept insisting on locations that the Arab countries opposed. The Israeli Embassy in Washington knew that the Department of State completed the formulation of invitations to bilateral talks nearly two weeks ago, with the venue having been chosen by the mediator. Baker and Bush would have dispatched the invitations at that time had it not been for the Israeli Embassy's request to postpone the move until after Shamir's meetings with them. Shamir, therefore, could not have been surprised by the existence of invitations, or by Baker's proposal that the talks be held in Washington.

It can be assumed that when Baker bid Shamir farewell, he knew full well that there was no chance the prime minister would agree to hold the talks in Washington, and that if Washington was out of the question, there was no other location on which the sides could agree in the near future. What Baker did not know then was what he would do about it. According to media reports, Baker was angry, agitated, and distracted after his meeting with Shamir, answering reporters' questions more tersely than usual. Later, he summoned his entire team: Dennis Ross and his assistant Aaron Miller, Margaret Tutwiler, Edward Djerejian and his assistant Dan Kurtzer, as well as Dr. Richard Haass, who is in charge of the Middle East desk in the National Security Council. The team decided to issue the invitations without delay, even before Shamir's meeting with Bush, presumably to avert a procedural crisis in the highest echelons. The flaw in their conduct was in their failure to notify Shamir that invitations were being sent out, but not in the decision to send out the invitations, which was a new decision resulting from Shamir's stand. They preferred to stem the avalanche a second before Shamir turned the issue of the talks' venue into an ideological matter. Did they act so badly?

Now Jerusalem will pretend to be offended and announce—at a time of its own, rather than Washington's, choice—its consent to continue the talks in the U.S. capital, at the same time posing certain restrictions. Jerusalem can delay its reply to the United States by a few days as protest against Washington's conduct, but the demand that no simultaneous negotiations be held with the three (or four) delegations, which Shamir intends to present, is more problematic.

The man who set down the principle of simultaneous negotiations was Shamir himself; it was included in the peace plan he relayed to Bush in April 1989. He is now forced to swallow the bitter pill he introduced into his plan at a time when he believed that the Arab countries would never come to such negotiations—at least not as long as he was prime minister. If Shamir realizes that matters are making too much progress along the lines of his own peace plan, which was endorsed by the government in May 1989, he will be always able to freeze the situation by calling early elections. If he is reelected as prime minister, he will be forced again to deal with his peace plan. However, anything could happen by then. In any event, more time will have elapsed.

Baker Letter Reportedly Ignores Levi Message

TA2711112391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's letter of invitation to the Washington talks, which infuriated Jerusalem because of its content and the manner in which it was sent, included an addendum which a political source in Jerusalem described as "adding insult to injury." U.S. Ambassador William Brown appended a note to Baker's letter saying it also constitutes a reply to Foreign Minister David Levi's message two weeks earlier. The problem here is that Baker's letter makes no mention whatsoever of the issues raised in Levi's missive.

Levi's message dwelt on the attempt to abolish the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism and the preparations for the meeting of the multilateral forum scheduled to discuss regional questions. These topics were not at all mentioned in Baker's "reply." Moreover, the thrust of Levi's message was a request that the United States consult and coordinate positions with Israel. Baker's letter was the exact opposite of that, the source said.

Levi on Ghali Appointment, Egypt Preventing Loans

Hopes Ghali To 'Correct' UN 'Wrongs'

TA2711144091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Israel will support Butrus Ghali's nomination in the General Assembly, Foreign Minister David Levi announced at the Knesset. Levi sent a message to Ghali congratulating him on his election. In it he wrote: Israel expects that you will take action to correct previous wrongs done to Israel during your term as secretary

general. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that this came in response to a query by Knesset Member Hagay Merom.

Charges Egypt Preventing U.S. Loans

TA2711144791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has revealed that Egypt has been acting through various channels to prevent Israel from getting the U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in a speech to the Knesset, Levi accused Egypt of not behaving as stipulated by the peace agreement between the two countries. For example, Egypt took vigorous action to foil the attempt to revoke the UN resolution equating Zionism and racism. The foreign minister was speaking during a debate on Dr. Butrus Ghali's appointment to the post of UN secretary general. Levi said he had instructed Israel's ambassador to the United Nations to vote for Ghali, adding that Israel expects that as UN secretary general Ghali's actions will embody the spirit of the peace agreement.

Egyptian Parliamentary Delegation Visits Knesset

TA2611184391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The Knesset today hosted the Egyptian parliamentary delegation visiting the country. Our parliamentary correspondent Eli Nisan reports that Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky hosted a luncheon in honor of the delegation's members. The Egyptian delegation is here as guest of the Likud Party for a courtesy call, reciprocating the visit by a Likud delegation to Egypt a month ago. The Knesset speaker awarded the delegation's members the medal of the Knesset, while the Egyptian delegation's members presented the Knesset speaker a copper pitcher from Dr. Yusuf Wali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture.

Netanyahu on Arab Reconciliation for Peace Talks

TA2611054191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says the Arabs have realized they cannot dislodge Israel by war. Netanyahu was speaking in London, from where Jerry Lewis reports:

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Addressing a packed annual dinner of the Joint Israel Appeal, Binyamin Netanyahu said that last year had seen some remarkable changes in the Arab viewpoint, affecting both moderates and radicals alike. They were no longer sure of themselves, as a result of political changes such as those in the Soviet Union, where the great engine which had fed, supported, and propped up their plans and their armies after each defeat has now gone. And, as a result of the Gulf war, the Arabs could clearly see that the cost of war and the dangers of such war could escalate and they didn't necessarily bring the results.

As a consequence, both events had sobered up some of the more radical attitudes in the Arab world over going to war with Israel. Deep caution had now taken over, hence the willingness to attend the talks in Madrid. The Arabs now realize they could not dislodge Israel by war.

[Netanyahu] I think that the events that we saw in the last few years internationally, with the decline of the Soviet empire, and this year, with the Gulf war, have produced an earthquake in the Arab mind—not an earthquake toward acceptance out of goodwill, but a reconciliation out of the lack of choice—and this is creating, I think for the first time, opportunities to cement arrangements that would allow us to live, literally live, in the Middle East in ways that perhaps were not possible before. [end recording]

Attorney General on Title to Silwan Buildings

TA2611183791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The wording of the attorney general's legal opinion regarding the settlement in the village of Silwan implies that there are doubts about the 'Amidar company's title to the buildings it handed over to the settlers. The legal opinion states that 'Amidar received the properties from the Absentees Assets Administrator, but that it is possible that the houses' attribution to absentees' assets was made improperly and that it is based on contradictory affidavits of one person.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem adds that the settlers have submitted an affidavit to the High Court of Justice, in which they object to the deferral of the High Court's date by which the government should respond on the Silwan settlement matter. They also attack the attorney general, saying that his remarks and his legal opinion border on contempt of court and are liable to interfere with the court deliberations.

Minister Ari'el Sharon disputes the police stand that the population of the Silwan buildings may be dangerous to the public. Minister Sharon advised the attorney general of his position before the attorney general completed his legal opinion and asked that his view be submitted as an affidavit.

Histadrut Branch Inaugurated in East Jerusalem

TA2611184691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Histadrut [Trade Unions Federation] Secretary Yisra'el Qeysar today inaugurated the Jerusalem Workers Council's new office in East Jerusalem. Speaking at the ceremony, Qeysar said there is, and will be, no argument about Jerusalem.

Commenting on the Labor Convention's resolution to separate state from religion, he said it was a harmful and inapplicable declaration.

He also said he supports the use of private capital in every Histadrut company and will not object to the sale of parts of the Tadiran company, whose personnel can be given shares on preferential terms.

Labor Members—'Separation' of Religion Not Sought

TA2611200991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Labor Party members, who drafted the resolution passed in the Labor conference last week on religion and state, say the proposal was misnamed. They say the contents of the resolution do not call for a separation, but rather a depoliticization, of religion. The party members, including Hayim Ramon, Avraham Burg, Yosi Beilin, and 'Uzi Bar'am, appealed to Labor Secretary Mikha Harish to arrange a meeting between them and religious party members who were offended by the resolution. [passage omitted]

Ministry Approves Development of Superlasers

TA2611150191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Yavsham 'Azgad]

[Excerpts] Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, has approved a project for the development of superlasers, laser beams that utilize free electrons. The project, to be headed by Professor Avi Gover of Tel Aviv University's Engineering Department, will be conducted jointly with the Weizmann Institute and other research institutions. Recent immigrant Soviet scientists will also participate.

The overall cost of the project is estimated at approximately $300,000. The Energy and Infrastructure Ministry will finance half that sum, and the rest will be defrayed by the Israel Academy of Sciences and the Israel-U.S. Binational Science Foundation (BSF). The cost is far lower than normally allocated to such projects in other places in the world, one reason being the plan to use existing installations and to convert them for the current project.

The free electron laser beam is seen as the best candidate to replace the "death beam" planned to eliminate enemy missiles in the U.S. SDI ("Star Wars") project. Scientists also hope to use the laser for the ignition of nuclear fusion reactors. [passage omitted]

The Israeli superlaser will apparently be based on an existing electrostatic particle accelerator at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. This 6-million-watt horizontal accelerator has been virtually unused recently. Commensurate with its power, the Israeli superlaser is planned to deflect laser millimeter and infrared waves (it takes an accelerator with greater power to generate a shorter wave beam). Since the said accelerator is electrostatic, it deflects a continuous beam rather than separate pulses. That is why the superlaser based on the accelerator will have a high efficiency in converting electric energy into light, a higher beam coherence, and a high average power. This type of laser could be used for the ignition of fusion reactors (and less so for similar military usage planned for "Star Wars.")

According to the plans, development work will start this January and will last nearly three years. In the first stage, the installation will serve for laser research. Later, it could be used in other areas, such as materials research, biology, isotope separation, etc.

IDF Confirms 2 Soldiers Wounded in South Lebanon

TA2611154991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Report by military correspondent 'Ido Baum]

[Excerpt] Two Israeli soldiers were injured today when two bombs were detonated at 0930 as their unit was conducting a routine operation near the village of Tallusah in the eastern-central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. One was moderately wounded and the other sustained moderate to serious wounds. Their families have been notified. The soldiers were evacuated to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Israeli Army units fired at terrorist targets outside the security zone, near the village of Majdal Silm, following the incident. [passage omitted]

Agreement With Jordan on 18 Dec Mecca Pilgrimage

TA2711104091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Israel and Jordan have agreed on the departure of Muslim pilgrims to Mecca via the Jordan River bridges. The date for that has been set for 18 December. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the 1,200 pilgrims who have registered will be permitted to stay in Jordan and Saudi Arabia approximately two weeks.

Zambia To Restore Diplomatic Relations

TA2711121491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Zambia has sent an official message to Israel notifying it of its intention to begin contacts with a view to restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Israeli Foreign Ministry's spokesman announced last night that the contacts would probably be launched within the next few weeks.

A similar announcement was made at the UN General Assembly last night by the Zambian ambassador. Nevertheless, he pointed out, the restoration of relations would not affect Zambia's support for the right of the Palestinians to an independent state.

King Calls Washington Most Appropriate Venue

JN2611172891 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that Washington is the most appropriate venue for the second phase of the Middle East peace talks. In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation—the BBC—today, his majesty said it is impossible from a practical and psychological point of view to hold the talks in the Middle East. The king said even if we intend to do so, it will take us a long time.

In the interview, his majesty also said peace talks cannot be held in the occupied Arab territories since that contravenes the Geneva Conventions, and does not achieve what we are looking for.

The king said that the Madrid conference was a good start, and noted that the parties concerned are now moving towards the bilateral talks. His majesty expressed hope that the next phase will be followed by multilateral talks where all problems in the region will be discussed.

The king said Jordan is suffering from the return of more than 300,000 Jordanians and Palestinians from Kuwait. His majesty said there are hundreds of thousands of Palestinian returnees who are in need of medical care and education, and that Jordan is trying all means to help them. The king said the issue of the returnees is part of a broader problem which has to be tackled.

In an answer to a question, his majesty said Jordan did not try to claim sovereignty over the occupied territories. In fact, the king added, when a union took place between the Eastern and Western Banks in the early 1950's, it was clear that Jordan would be responsible for the West Bank until finding a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Cabinet Forms Delegation to Bilateral Talks

JN2611204391 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The cabinet decided the formation of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, which will be held in Washington on the fourth of next month.

During its session this evening chaired by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the cabinet decided that the delegation will be headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. Its members are Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i, Mr. Anwar al-Khatib, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Ambassador Talal al-Hasan, Ambassador Nayif al-Qadi, Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, Dr. Muhammad Bani-Hani, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, Dr. Walid al-Khalidi, Mr. 'Awn al-Khasawinah, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, and Dr. Musa Burayzat.

King Receives Libyan Envoy, Al-Qadhdhafi Letter

JN2611185591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee, at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. Durdah conveyed to his majesty a letter from His Excellency Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi related to the Libyan Jamahiriyah's position on accusations leveled against it.

The discussion tackled bilateral relations. Durdah stressed the Jamahiriyah's concern with developing these relations in the interests of the two sisterly peoples.

The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty the king's adviser. The meeting was also attended by the Libyan ambassador in Amman, and the director of foreign affairs in the Libyan People's Committee.

Prior to his departure from Amman this evening, his excellency the Libyan president's envoy talked to our correspondent for political affairs, Kassab Samawi, on the outcome of his visit to Jordan and his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn.

[Begin recording] [Durdah] The meeting was very successful. I conveyed to him the letter from his brother the revolution leader. We found a complete and accurate understanding by him of the situation, its nature, and possibilities. He gave us his advice and views.

[Samawi] Did you discuss bilateral issues?

[Durdah] Yes. We referred a number of draft agreements that are now being studied to the brothers in Jordan. We agreed to sign the agreements, in order to implement them, as soon as the brothers agree on them. They are copies of the agreements concluded between the Jamahiriyah and sisterly Egypt, and which we believe would lead to achieving integration in the various fields—economic and non-economic fields—and attain integrated commodities and labor markets, which we very much need. It is considered a step at this stage that would lead in the future, when the circumstances are appropriate, to achieving the unity of our Arab nation.

[Samawi] Thank you.

[Durdah] Thank you. [end recording]

The Libyan official was welcomed and seen off at Amman airport by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty the king's adviser, and the Libyan ambassador in Amman.

Article Advises Al-Hirawi To 'Reform or Resign'

NC2611154791 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 25 Nov 91 p 3

[Article by editor in chief Hasan Sabra entitled: "Your Excellency the President: Reform or Resign"]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency President of the Lebanese Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi:

You have preempted us by talking about your republic which, in its third year, brought with it the smell of gas mixed with gasoline, marring for us—and definitely for you—what you could have viewed as a time of joy and the people, a time for statement of account. The book can be read by its odors. [passage omitted]

The people judge you by your government's performance, even if you spend all your time complaining about some of its members, say that most have been imposed on you, or even if you say that among them you have only a son-in-law and lawyer al-Fakhuri. [passage omitted]

Your Excellency, when the people judge they do not consider laws, constitutions, or agreements. They do not have the luxury of reading while they are being whipped. They have the right to eat legitimately and not be eaten by others illegitimately. Your duty as president is to allow the legitimate and prohibit the illegitimate. [passage omitted]

Your Excellency the President, before I give you a chance to speak about your great political "achievements", the end of the state of war and the launching of peace—the south is part of the homeland without peace, alone the field of war—I would like to remind you that all the people know that had it not been for Syria you would have achieved nothing.

This balance of political achievements, Your Excellency, scores zero in what can be drawn from it to legitimately represent and govern the people.

Perhaps your regime's first sin against the homeland was to waste its greatest achievements—a dream for which the people lived and waited 15 years. Some are despairing: The war was more merciful. The militias were less hungry. We could pay for our children's education. We could eat meat once a week. The merchant feared something. Interceding with a militiaman helped frighten a minister off stealing openly because there was always someone who could deter a minister; an official, a director, a relative, or an employee.

Now, Your Excellency, it is rare to find an official, responsible for the people, who is afraid of God. They are ungodly but you are responsible.

You are responsible for the adulterated gasoline, which has harmed people, trees, stones, and chickens.

You are responsible for the minister caught smuggling narcotics but who was not brought to trial, whom no one dared to talk about for fear of legal prosecution, of being pursued by security services, or of being liquidated.

You are responsible for the minister caught forging dollars. You are responsible for the minister caught making money illegally by gambling.

You are responsible for the minister who lets his relatives move freely in his ministry, demanding kickbacks from the people to accomplish their business.

You are responsible for the minister who will not sign a contract for a Sri Lankan maid without payment.

You are responsible for the minister who does not install a telephone without a favor.

You are responsible for the minister who fled when the country began to smell because of a deal involving a name no one dares mention.

You are responsible. There are one of two solutions before you: Either you resign if you cannot control and stop those who are with you from eating illegitimately, and allow the people to eat legitimately, or stand up and say: This is how it is. You can let us govern or you can remove us. The choice will then be the people's.

Your Excellency the President: I would have liked to congratulate you, but we are people who do not know hypocrisy so we tell you: We do not envy you; we do not envy you.

AL-SHIRA' Editions Confiscated 26 Nov

NC2611155891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] On the Beirut prosecutor general's order, the internal security forces today started confiscating copies of AL-SHIRA' magazine in various areas.

Prime Minister on Israeli Escalation in South

NC2611155191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Statement by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami upon emerging from Government House in Beirut, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents on 26 November—recorded]

[Text] [Karami] Our position is clear and frank: Implementation of Resolution 425 without preconditions, because if we want to enter into other details, it will jeopardize Resolution 425. This is a firm position that has not changed and will not change.

[Correspondent] There has been a noticeable Israeli escalation in the Jazzin area. What is your comment on the situation?

[Karami] Israel has never stopped attacking the Lebanese and Lebanese territory. There is nothing strange

about this for the Israeli enemy. We notice that whenever the date of the peace conference approaches, the escalation increases. The regrettable incident in which a Lebanese Army vehicle was hit and three soldiers were martyred and two others wounded is an example of this aggression. I take this opportunity to laud the heroism of the Lebanese Army in the south yesterday and pray for the souls of the martyrs who fell.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, do you intend to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council?

[Second correspondent] And call for a UN Security Council meeting?

[Karami] With regard to the question of calling for a Security Council meeting and complaining to the Security Council, what matters is the result and not submitting a complaint. Lebanon has submitted more than 120 complaints. We lodged a complaint last week. With regard to calling for a meeting, if the results of contacts with the permanent members of the UN Security Council are not encouraging, the outcome will be counterproductive. As you all know, there is what is called the right of veto. Until now, these contacts have not been encouraging. Therefore, submitting a complaint will be useless, unless one wants to submit a complaint just for the sake of complaining. In such matters, we can say as much as we want at home. But one must abide by rules and principles with regard to international and foreign matters so they will not be counterproductive.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, are contacts being held to restrain the escalation that took place yesterday?

[Karami] Contacts are ongoing. This is our duty. The Foreign Ministry is doing that 24 hours a day.

Cabinet Decides To Send Forces to Tayr Dibbah

NC2611200591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The cabinet meeting ended shortly before 2100 today. Our correspondent at the presidential office has the details:

The cabinet, which convened under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi, praised the Lebanese Army's confrontation of the Israeli enemy and exalted the Army's role in defending the homeland and the south. The cabinet discussed the Army deployment in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon's zone and decided to pursue contacts to complete the deployment and to send an internal security force to Tayr Dibbah to maintain security there.

The cabinet assessed 11 months of performance and noted that the government has achieved a great deal to shift the country from war to peace. It emphasized that the government is continuing to bear its responsibilities and will work toward implementing the al-Ta'if Accord's outstanding provisions.

The cabinet also discussed a report from the administrative reform committee concerning the Education Ministry and will continue the discussion tomorrow.

Israeli Attacks, Overflights Reported

NC2711130491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The south was not spared further Israeli attacks today. The township of Majdal Silm was hit by 30 shells, while Qabrikha was hit by a number of shells directed from the al-Tamiriayh triangle. Israeli helicopters strafed plains and hills in the liberated areas adjacent to the occupied security strip as Israeli warplanes overflew the south.

Amal To Try To Prevent Army Withdrawal

NC2711103491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Statement" by Amal Movement issued in response to the Lebanese Government's decision to withdraw the Army from the UN-occupied zone; place, date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] We have learned of the offer to allow the Lebanese Army to enter Jazzin on an experimental basis. We have also learned of the cabinet decision to withdraw the Lebanese Army from the UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] area of operations. In view of this, the Amal Movement declares a general alert in the south and asks its activists and the inhabitants to prevent the Army from leaving UNIFIL's area of operations. The Amal Movement has always insisted that the land is Lebanese, the Army is Lebanese, and UNIFIL's mission is to help the Army deploy and not the opposite.

Al-Shar', Palestinian Delegation Head Confer

JN2611200591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] This evening, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference. Also in attendance were Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister, and Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab World Department.

Talks centered on evaluating the Madrid peace conference. Views were exchanged on the next moves toward realization of a just and comprehensive peace settlement on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

It has been emphasized that the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region requires Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination.

Israeli Reaction to U.S. Invitations Viewed

JN2711071691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Opinion" column, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The United States has officially extended invitations to the second phase peace talks in Washington on 4 December. This invitation caused Israel's anger and indignation. Israel described the invitation as a serious challenge to Israel. The reason for this is that not only was the U.S. invitation announced while Shamir was preparing to meet with U.S. President George Bush, but also because Israel still insists that this phase of talks be held in the region. Israel said that it is disgraceful that its Prime Minister Shamir heard the news about the place and venue for the second phase peace talks while he was in the United States, and without being consulted by the U.S. Administration, and that America cannot impose opinions and ideas that are far from the Israeli position.

The paper adds: This means that Israel wants to impose its opinion even on the United States itself, and wants the U.S. policy to continue to be fully biased toward Israel. It does not want Washington to play the role of mediator or even judge regarding the launching of a peace process, its arrangements, measures, and steps.

Libyan Premier Arrives To Discuss U.S. 'Threats'

JN2611214391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee, arrived in Damascus at 2000 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. At the head of those receiving him at Damascus International Airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Also receiving him were Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Dr. Muhammad Jum'ah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Haydar Buzu, minister of social affairs and labor; 'Ali Khalil, minister of state; and Humayyid Jallud, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Office in Damascus and members of the office.

Mr. Durdah told a SANA correspondent: I was tasked by brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, to convey a message to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad on the threats against the Libyan Jamahiriyah by the United States and Britain and the developments related to this issue.

Campaign To Support Al-Asad Nomination Reported

JN2611100091

[Editorial Report] Since 16 November, when a special People's Assembly session was held to present the Ba'th Party nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad for a fourth term in office, Syrian media have undertaken a massive campaign in his favor prior to the national referendum scheduled for 2 December. This nomination also coincides with Syrian celebrations of the 21st anniversary of Hafiz al-Asad's Corrective Movement.

Damascus radio and television have been carrying live, or reporting on, "mammoth" marches and rallies held in Damascus and other major Syrian cities by political parties, students, trade unions, and various organizations and popular groups expressing "overwhelming happiness" over President Hafiz al-Asad's nomination. The rallies are addressed by prominent Syrians who assert that the nomination is "a response to people's demands and aspirations." Al-Asad is described as "the knight and leader of the Arab nation," "a historic figure," "the hope of the nation," and "a leader and symbol, who has strengthened popular democracy, has established political and economic pluralism, and has realized pride and dignity for the Arab nation."

On 17 November, Damascus radio and television linked up at 1002 GMT to carry live the proceedings of the People's Assembly session in support of al-Asad's nomination to a new presidential term. The live relay continued until 1448 GMT except for an approximately 20 minute recess. All speakers, reminded by the Assembly speaker in advance that the session was being carried live, voiced vehement support for al-Asad's nomination to another term. Damascus radio and television at 0820 GMT on 18 November relayed live a speech rally held in Damascus in support of al-Asad's nomination.

At least one-third of every newscast on radio and television has been devoted to reporting on the rallies and marches. Damascus television has been carrying long video reports on the Syrian popular "celebrations and festivities" welcoming al-Asad's fourth term.

Since 17 November, the Damascus radio daily commentary at 1230 GMT has been almost completely devoted to commendation of al-Asad's leadership, achievements, and statesmanship. The 18 November commentary calls al-Asad's leadership "historic and exceptional." It says that since 16 November 1970, he has been at the helm "in an unprecedented darkness in Arab history." The commentary adds: "Our need for al-Asad's leadership now is at its maximum level as was our need for him in 1970." The commentary concludes that al-Asad has earned "our allegiance" to him "which will last for ever."

The 19 November commentary says that the Syrian people have renewed their allegiance to President Hafiz al-Aasd "so that he will continue to lead the struggle against the usurping Zionist enemy, given his rare determination, iron will, and high qualifications." The commentary adds that "no one but al-Asad will be able to deal the enemy a surprise, a shocking blow, and convince world leaders of the just Arab cause and the need to build a firm, genuine peace in the Middle East." The commentary adds that no one but al-Asad can "strip the enemy leaders of their sharpest weapon; namely, the strategic alliance with the United States, which, thanks to al-Asad's astuteness, has lost much of its importance. Israel now seems, as it should have seemed, a burden on the United States and a harmful ally."

Subsequent commentaries from 20 to 25 November heap additional praise on al-Asad. The 22 November commentary says that the Syrian people's demonstrations, renewing allegiance to al-Asad, "mean that Syria will not compromise over land or rights, will not appease or sell out, and will remain in confrontation to Zionist plots." Commentaries also recall al-Asad's stands on various Arab issues since 1970 and his work to bolster Arab solidarity.

Newspaper editorials as reviewed by Damascus radio have been praising "this great leader" using phrases such as "allegiance to the leader," "this outstanding leader," and "the pan-Arab symbol."

As reviewed by Damascus radio, AL-BA'TH of 24 November says: "President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership has renewed our people's hopes to realize more suitable circumstances to prevent the Zionist plots from penetrating Arab depths. Hafiz al-Asad has continued to be a safety valve and an impregnable shield, defending the truth and aspiring to redeem the usurped Arab rights. In the eyes of our nation's enemies, al-Asad is the obstacle which has caused the enemies to lose their senses and the rock against which their pressures and plots have foundered." The paper also says that "expressing allegiance to al-Asad is an important necessity to heal the Arab wounds and to realize people's hopes."

Syrian papers received from 17 to 21 November carry al-Asad's pictures and banner headlines on people's demonstrations and festivals in support of al-Asad's nomination. The 20 November issue of TISHRIN claims that 2 million people took to Damascus streets on the previous day shouting "yes" to the president. Newspaper articles and editorials elaborate on al-Asad's achievements, courage, and political acumen.

The Syrian media also cite Lebanese and other Arab and non-Arab figures and reports in praise of al-Asad. In a 21 November report, the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, cites Lebanese Economy Minister Marwan Hamadah as describing Hafiz al-Asad as a "unique knight both in the past and in the present," the "Saladin of our age," that "he will not only win the Syrian people's votes but the votes of 150 million Arabs," and that "he raised Syria from a mediocre country in terms of size and people to the level of the big powers because of his astuteness, coolness, and intelligence."

Iran

One U.S. Hostage To Be Freed 'Within 3 Days'

TA2611195091 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] According to news agency reports from Beirut, rumors in Lebanese political circles indicate that one of the three American hostages still being held captive by mercenaries of the Islamic Republic will be released by next Thursday, that is within three days. No information is available on the identity of this hostage. It is worth noting that last week the Tehran government's official newspapers, including TEHRAN TIMES, had predicted that following the release of Terry Waite and Sutherland, the other Western hostages being held captive in Beirut would be released soon.

IRNA Says Peace Process Bush Reelection Ploy

LD2711023691 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—The Persian afternoon daily JAHAN-E ESLAM said in a commentary Tuesday that U.S. President George Bush is anxious to pull the Arabs and the Zionist government to the negotiating table because he believes his success in that enterprise will bring him another term in office.

It added, however, that despite the small concessions likely to be given to the Arabs, the talks are aimed at safeguarding the long-term interests of the Zionist government.

The commentary said in part:

"December 4 has been set by the United States for the second round of talks between Arabs and Israel in Washington. The devices that the United States employed in order to make Washington the venue of the talks may now be overlooked for the sake of a direct landing on the topic, although we cannot overlook the efforts of the U.S. for pulling the Arabs and Israel into an eventual compromise cost what it may.

"Why is the United States this much persistent? For two reasons: First, the approaching presidential elections in the United States, secondly, the peculiar post-war developments in the Persian Gulf.

"In the wake of three consecutive administrations, including that by Ronald Reagan, by the Republicans in the United States the group now finds it harder than before to try to win the votes of the Americans by mere propaganda campaignings.

"In the meanwhile the Democrats have been somehow overhauled in preparation for a successful campaigning for upcoming presidential elections, and under the circumstances it seems Mr. Bush and his supporters are counting on the Mid-East peace talks as the last miracle-card on their hand with which to win the game.

"It would be irrelevant to think of the untiring efforts of Mr James Baker for pulling the two sides to the conflict to the negotiating table at whatsoever cost outside of the context of the expectations of the Bush administration in the forthcoming elections. Yitzhaq Shamir's steadily changing position in contrast to his previously proverbial hard-line position which reflexes his earlier stance may well be viewed within that same context.

"Shamir was in Washington as the date for the second Israeli-Arab conference was announced, and before his meeting with Bush he had said that any deal with the Arabs over (the now-Israeli-held) soil would be out of question. After his meeting with Bush, however, he made an obvious about-face saying that any topic will be negotiable at the talks. Would that mean a relenting postion on the part of the Zionists? It can only be suspected. Why? Because both the United States and Israel agree that the Arab side to the talks will not gain anything substantial as a result of the talks. It is most likely that George Bush should have convinced Shamir that his disagreement (with the agenda of the talks) might well threaten all U.S. plans which serve the long-term interests of the Zionists.

"To get into the White House for a second time Bush is ready to give certain unimportant concessions to the Arabs. To offer security to Israel with minimal modifications in territorial bounderies will not be a much difficult task, and it will install Bush in the White House for a second term.

"Nonetheless, it is likely that the two sides to the talks will engage in more radical topics. The Arabs count on soil-for-peace as an important element in the talks which topic Israel fears to become the key issue...

"The joint strategy of the United States and Israel will be to divide the solid Arab front by leading each into making small and independent demands in a bid to drown the issue of Palestine in a dominant atmosphere of self-concerned Arab heads of state who have lesser interest in the issue, which situation will mean the creation of a situation for the ultimate killing of the thorny issue of Palestine.

"Israel is thought to turn out as the ultimate winner in the talks because as a result of the oil war the Arabs are getting into talks in a most weak position. Under the circumstances, obviously, they will not be able to maneuver firmly on their position."

Libyan Assembly Speaker Arrives With Message

LD2611230691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The speaker of Libya's People's Assembly arrived in Tehran this evening to submit a special message from

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of Libya, to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He and his delegation were welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Majlis.

The speaker of the Libyan parliament told our reporter in an interview that the message from the leader of the Libyan revolution to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerns America's threats as well as false accusations levelled against Libya, so that the brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran might be fully briefed about the facts.

Referring to the strong ties between the two countries, the speaker of the Libyan parliament stressed: We are fully aware of Iran's very important role in the world of Islam. And with due regard to the common stands of the two countries, because of which we have always been under America's threats, we believe that the positions adopted by the Iranian officials on Libya's problems and the U.S. threats are effective and decisive.

Rejecting the accusations brought against Libya, he stressed a proposal by the Government of Libya on a fair and impartial international authority as well as the United Nations Organization to investigate the United States' accusations. He declared Libya's preparedness for the truth to be clarified.

He then thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its positions in that regard and added that he will present a number of Asian countries with documents rejecting the U.S. allegations. He also said that his trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran is a good and effective beginning for the political efforts of the Libyan Government.

He said that the United States has no documents to prove its allegations against Libya and that it is pronouncing a verdict before proving the crime.

Mr. Karrubi, meanwhile, said he believes that the United States' allegation that Libya had a hand in the Pan Am airliner disaster was a plot in line with America's dirty objectives.

Rafsanjani—Iran Stands By Libya on Lockerbie

LD2711115491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Today President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Sawsa', speaker of the Libyan parliament [General People's Congress]. At the meeting, the Libyan parliament speaker handed over a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader, and then called for more contact and ties between the two countries and cooperation in all fields.

He submitted a report on the threats made against Libya and gave some explanations about America's allegations against Libya. He added: Unfortunately, in similar cases in the past—such as the attack on the Iranian passenger airliner to which America confessed—no international body prosecuted America. And now, without any proof, America is threatening Libya. In conclusion, he asked for Iran's cooperation and urged solidarity between the world's liberated nations to support Libya's justice-seeking stance. He gave the president documents on the steps taken by Libya in relation to the U.S. threats against that country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed thanks for Mr. al-Qadhdhafi's kind message and for the explanations given by the Libyan parliamentary speaker. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: To unjustly condemn a country and do what one likes is not acceptable at all. We believe that world public opinion will not accept such an act of bullying, if Libya manages to succeed in enlightening world public opinion.

Referring to the fact that a one-sided claim cannot be the basis for action against any country, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: If Muslim and Third World countries and friends of Libya carry out their duty properly, your problem will be solved. We, too, will stand with you in the defense of your rights. He added: Libya's request for an international court to review the case is justified and proper. A rejection of that request will prove the ill-will of the claimants. If they have any proof for their claims which would appeal to the court, why do they refrain from presenting it to legitimate international courts and insist that the verdict of their own country's court, which has no jurisdiction over others, should be carried out?

UN Allowed To Transport Fuel to Iraq Via Iran

NC2511163291 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov 25 (AFP)—Iran has authorized United Nations personnel to transport motor fuel to Iraq across Iranian territory, first Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi said here Monday.

"To allow the United Nations to send fuel to Iraq over the Iranian border is part of Iran's humanitarian policy," he said.

The United Nations has been supplying residents of Iraqi Kurdistan with fuel and materials to build shelters ahead of the winter cold.

"Disputes with the governments of neighboring countries must not prevent Iran from helping the people of those countries."

Habibi told Tehran Radio that Iran had sent food and clothing to Shiite Muslims in Afghanistan, with the permission of Kabul, in another humanitarian gesture.

Azerbaijan Events Cancel Tehran-Moscow Train

LD2711095891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran-Moscow passenger trains will not be operating until further notice. The Islamic Republic of Iran's

railways noted that the reason for this was the emergence of existing problems in the Soviet Azerbaijan region. The train has been running from Tehran to Moscow on every Saturday and Thursday of the week.

Turkey's 'Illegal' Ship Seizure Reported

LD2511221391 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—More than a month after the illegal seizure of the Iran-bound cargo ship by Turkish authorities in the Bosporus Strait, some of the different power centres in Ankara are still scheming to frustrate the good-neighbourly efforts of the Islamic Republic for the release of the Cypriot registered Cape Maleas.

Turkish officials are trying to justify their seizure of the ship by claiming that its cargo, including weapons and munitions, as well as the port of destiny, is not mentioned in the vessel's documents.

Cape Maleas, while transiting through the Bosporous was stopped, boarded, searched and taken to Istanbul port by Turkish coast guards acting against the letter and spirit of the Montreux Convention.

The Montreux Convention defines international navigation rights in the Bosporous and Dardanelles, the two straits on the northern and southern sides of the Sea of Marmara which separates Asia Minor from Europe.

The convention explicitly states that Turkey has no right to inspect cargo ships which transit through the two straits.

Such events do not seem unusual in Turkey—an Asian Muslim country which longs to be accepted as part of Europe—where a myriad of power centres and their differing positions, often influenced by foreign states, lead to tensions.

However, despite Turkish intransigence, Iran, which gives priority to "good neighbourly" relations, particularly with Muslim states, has been trying to settle the issue through diplomatic channels.

It is worth reflecting for officials and people in Turkey not to overlook the damage which is likely to afflict their country through factional or individual position-takings.

For long the Ankara government has urged Tehran to use Turkish soil as a transit route for Iranian oil and gas pipelines to Europe, and the request was officially raised by President Turgut Ozal during the recent visit to Turkey by President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani.

The multi-billion project which could uplift Turkey's sagging economy, was expected to top plans for economic cooperation between the two Muslim neighbours, but the seizure of the Cape Maleas raises a number of unanswered questions.

How can the Turkish government guarantee to keep such trunklines open?

Another important point to ponder is the biased stands of most of the Turkish press and certain officials towards the most sacred cultural and national values of the Islamic Republic over the past 13 years, which reflects the views of some Turkish factions on having only low-level relations with Muslim neighbours.

These groups term the major reason as "efforts for pleasing the west," which they think could ultimately win Turkey "proximity to Europe"?

Those in authority in Turkey are so much infatuated with the United States and Europe in their hope against hope of being accepted in the European Community, that they have unfortunately lost sight of the real aspirations of the Turkish Muslims and their historical, cultural and geographical closeness to the rest of the Muslim world.

The fact is, the recent issue has once again revealed that mere political will for promotion of relations without coordination among the different centres and power factions in Turkey will not bear desirable results for that country.

Prospects Reviewed for Vienna OPEC Meeting

LD2511170291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1056 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. OPEC oil ministers will meet in Vienna tomorrow to hold discussions and reach agreement, in the 90th OPEC session, on an oil production ceiling and a benchmark oil price for the first season of the 1992 Christian year. The 90th OPEC session, with 13 members attending, will be held in circumstances in which, as a result of the equilibrium of supply and demand on the market, the oil price is very stable. The reason is that Iraq and Kuwait have not yet been able to bring their oil export levels back to pre-Persian Gulf crisis levels. On the other hand, Soviet oil production has also faced many problems.

As a result, in the current month, OPEC crude oil has in some cases been sold at prices exceeding the organization's bench price. In the last supervisory meeting of oil ministers, which was held in the month of Mehr [month beginning 23 September], OPEC members agreed that the organization's production ceiling for the last three months of 1991 should be set at 23,650,000 barrels per day at a benchmark price of 21 dollars per barrel. The meeting did not set quotas for any member.

Oil analysts are predicting that, in the 90th session, the 13 OPEC members will reach agreement, without any difficulty, on maintaining the current oil production

ceiling during the first season of 1992. On the other hand, the return of Kuwait and Iraq to the international oil market and the seasonal reduction in demand next spring are sources of anxiety for OPEC members. Most OPEC members are trying to make Saudi Arabia, which is currently producing at its maximum level of 8.5 million barrels per day, agree to discussions about quotas and the OPEC production ceiling as soon as Kuwait and Iraq return to the oil market.

Statistical assessments by the International Energy Agency suggest that in winter demand will reach the level of 25.2 million barrels per day. However, next spring the figure will fall to 22.7 million barrels per day. The following can be deduced from this information: Despite oil production being at the highest capacity level and despite the absence of any quotas, OPEC members will have an unprecedented market as a result of the absence of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil and the increased winter demand. Nonetheless, with the re-entry next spring of the two countries engaged in the Persian Gulf war, and as a result of the increased supply and the seasonal reduction in demand a complicated situation will be brought about for OPEC.

Most members believe that they must adjust their economies to prepare for a possible reduction in oil production. The main issue over which there must be agreement is the mechanism on the basis of which Iraq and Kuwait can return to their former situation without any disturbance in the oil market. But economic analysts are already doubtful about the possibility that Saudi Arabia will accept a decrease in production next spring.

Clerical Court Summons Budget Commission Head

LD2511152691 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—The Special Clerical Court (SCC) confirmed here Monday that head of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission Morteza Alviri has been summoned to the court on charges of conspiracy against the late Imam Khomeyni's decrees.

SCC Deputy Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Ruhollah Hoseyniyan who is also Tehran's SCC prosecutor further categorically denied the allegation by the morning daily SALAM.

SALAM on Sunday quoting unspecified number of Majles deputies claimed that Alviri's summoning may had been prompted by his meeting with Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri or his pre-agenda speech protesting summoning of Majles First Vice-speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Hashemiyan earlier this month.

According to Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyniyan, "so far the court has not summoned a single deputy for his pre-agenda statements and will not do so in future unless a deputy utters lies and slanders or commits a crime outside the jurisdiction of his post."

As for summoning a non-clerical person to the clerical court, the hojjat ol-Eslam said, "in case the main accused is a cleric, all his collaborators will be summoned to the court."

An official from the court told IRNA on November 15 that Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan's summoning had nothing to do with his meeting with Ayatollah Montazeri and that he had been summoned only on charges of "conspiracy against the late imam's decrees."